

Kensington & Chelsea News

Established 1857, part of the London Weekly News group

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TUESDAY MAY 2 2017



Sadiq Khan said ministers had deliberately used the election as an excuse to hold back their plan to tackle air pollution

Mayor's pollution blast for ministers

End the time-wasting and get a grip, angry Sadiq tells Government

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS suffering ill health because of the capital's chronic pollution problems will be welcoming a High Court judge's decision to order the Government to publish its strategy for improving air quality.

Warning that pollution kills 64 people a day, Mr Justice Gurnham rejected an application by Andrea Leadsom, the environment secretary, for a ten-week postponement until after the general election.

He told her to publish the draft plan on May 9, five days after local elections, and warned that nitrogen dioxide, produced largely by diesel engines, costs 23,500 lives a year.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) had argued that publication would breach purdah rules that limit government announcements during election campaigns.

The judge said purdah was "not a trump card" to justify failing to comply with a previous court order to publish the plan. He refused leave to appeal but No 10 is considering applying to the Court of Appeal to overturn the ruling.

Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, said ministers had deliberately used the election as an excuse to hold back their plan, which is expected to propose charging older diesels to enter city centres and may include a scrappage scheme.

In response to the court's verdict, the Mayor said: "I am pleased that the Government will now have to face its responsibilities sooner rather than later."

"Ministers were dragged kicking and screaming to face the huge scale of this health crisis, but rather than take immediate action to protect the public they deliberately used the election as a smokescreen to hold back their plan."

"I share the concerns of every

Londoner who has been repeatedly failed by the Government.

"I hope that after this appalling delay, this Government delivers a strong plan to finally get a grip on this issue and urgently introduces a diesel scrappage fund to rid our streets of the dirtiest cars, and provide financial incentives to encourage people to buy the cleanest vehicles."

The Mayor is lobbying the Government to take urgent action on air quality, including:

- introducing a national vehicle scrappage fund to help drivers who bought diesel cars in good faith: he has previously written to the Chancellor proposing a targeted, fully-costed, city-led, time-limited approach;

- following London's lead and introducing Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)-style schemes where needed in other towns and cities across the UK: in London, the Mayor has launched a consultation on introducing the ULEZ in central London in April 2019 - 17

months earlier than previously planned; he has also set out plans to expand the ULEZ up to the North/South circular roads for all vehicles (except taxis) from 2021 and across the whole of Greater London for buses, coaches and lorries from 2020;

- taking action to ensure that national policies send the right messages to consumers: vehicle excise duty (VED) and other fiscal incentives continue to encourage the purchase of diesel cars - and they need to be amended;

- and urgently drafting new legislation including a 21st Century Clean Air Act, which could provide the overarching framework for action: it should provide a legally enforceable right to clean air for all citizens and the Government should introduce new powers to better regulate all emissions sources, not just road transport (for example, London needs additional powers to manage emissions from the river and construction sites).

Sadiq snubs bridge

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan has told the Chair of the Garden Bridge Trust that the GLA will not be providing Mayoral guarantees for the Garden Bridge project. In a letter to Lord Mervyn Davies, the Mayor outlined his view that the continuation of the project will expose the London taxpayer to additional financial risk, both with regard to the bridge's construction and its operation and maintenance. Before making the decision, the Mayor analysed the findings of Dame Margaret Hodge's independent review into the Garden Bridge project, and assessed all the information available about the project to date.

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Fraudster to pay up

A WEST London property developer who cheated the tax payer out of £150,000 was forced to sell his multi-million pound Ascot mansion to repay his victims. Keith Conner, 55, made £650,000 when he hijacked details of an offshore company in the British Virgin Islands to evade paying VAT and buy and sell mansions in Kensington.



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Palace basement row

RESIDENTS living near Kensington Palace have slammed proposals to develop a £24million 'super-basement' with some claiming the planners have been - "bedazzled by courtiers". Plans have been submitted to a build 50-metre long, two-storey deep basement next to the Grade I listed Queen Anne's Orangery of Kensington Palace.

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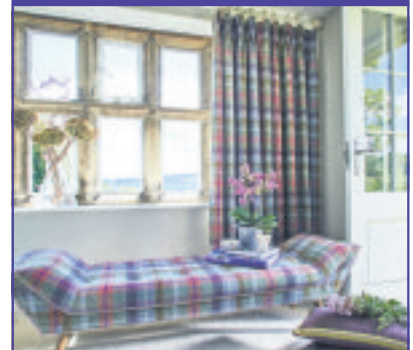
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(Established 1857)

Kensington & Chelsea News

(Established 1857 & 1869)

Fulham Chronicle

(Established 1888)

Hammersmith Chronicle

(Established 2015)

Shepherd's Bush Chronicle

(Established 2015)

London Weekly News

(Established 2014)

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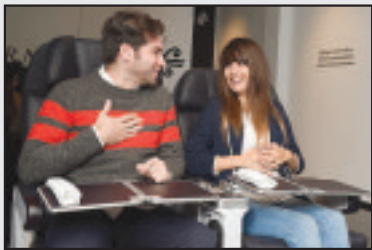
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A pop-up restaurant in Soho gave diners a taste of airline food – PAGE 15

NICK PAGET-BROWN



Theresa May announces the June 8 General Election

We have good, energetic and effective champions

ELECTIONS are a serious business and Britain has had lots of them over the past two and a half years. A referendum on Scottish independence, the 2015 General Election, last year's Mayoral election and EU referendum and now a second election to confirm the Prime Minister's direction of travel and strengthen her negotiating hand. Next year it's our turn.

As a Conservative, it won't surprise anyone to know that I believe we need to manage the economy effectively to generate the growth and taxes that fund our public services. We need to create opportunities for everyone, to incentivise success, to build employment and the skills that will sustain people in work, to maintain strong defences and alliances, including a deterrent, and ensure that we build good relationships and forge new alliances with countries all around the world. I am not a little Englander, nor a protectionist. I do not believe that governments can solve all problems but they can create benign conditions and remove obstacles that hinder growth and prosperity.

To do it, they need the support of effective and energetic MPs – which brings me to ours.

Victoria Borwick was for some years an energetic and influential member of the Council and my policy with her was always to give in early as it saved time in the long run. Since becoming an MP she has been even more relentless in pursuing the interests of her constituents. Where she gets the energy from goodness alone knows. I'm at the AGM of a small residents' association, she's there. I go to a consultation session for a regeneration scheme, I see her name in the visitor's book. I turn up for a Keep Britain Tidy event, her bin bag is already full of roadside detritus. I open my email basket and there she is again, enquiring about this application, or that housing case.

And that's not all. She is an active member of the Commons, sitting on a select committee and speaking up on many issues of importance to the country and to Kensington and Chelsea, such as the housing bill, superfast broadband in Kensington and healthcare in London. When it comes to the Council getting 'face time'

with decision makers on major issues affecting the borough, things have been transformed since Victoria was elected. I am looking forward to ministers also concluding that it is just easier to say yes.

Greg Hands in Chelsea and Fulham is another powerhouse. He's an international trade minister of course which is a pretty exacting job in these Brexit days. Half of his constituency is in Hammersmith & Fulham so, inevitably, we see less of him than we do Victoria, but he has campaigned with us against the third runway, against night flights and also campaigned to save congenital heart disease services at the Royal Brompton. He is there when we need him which, given his wider responsibilities, is no small thing.

So for good, energetic, effective MPs we are fortunate to have Greg Hands and Victoria Borwick. Seldom has our world appeared more uncertain, but I have no doubt that both of them make an enormous contribution to building a strong and resilient country that can face the future with confidence.

MY POINT OF VIEW

Charlie Mullins



JUST when it doesn't seem possible to add another twist to the story of British Politics, the prime minister pulls one out of the bag and presents the country with another chance to flex its democratic muscles – this time in the form of a general election.

Catching literally everyone on the back foot when she stepped out of Number 10 on 18 April, Theresa May's snap general election announcement was indeed a shock.

But standing back now, a few weeks later, it does seem like a win, and a big win according to the pollsters, who, although they haven't had a great track record predicting the outcome of recent votes on both sides of the Atlantic, might be onto a winner this time.

If her gamble pays off, the big time winner will be May – who could return to Downing Street with a massive majority, a parliament in place until 2022 and, of course, her own mandate to create a Brexit to her liking rather than that preferred by the hard right of her party, and those even further out.

What exactly the prime minister will do with her new power, assuming the Conservative lead is so large, is another issue. Maybe we'll hear something in her soon-to-be-published manifesto? Who knows, but you'd imagine there has been some planning going on, which is likely more than the opposition parties have managed, especially Labour.

Labour are, of course, a complete basket case, although I do agree with shadow chancellor John McDonnell on one thing – and that's there are undoubtedly some hard economic times approaching as a result of the Brexit process. Of course, I'd have to add that there's no chance in hell that I'd like to have him and his mob in charge when it hits.

As well as being an exciting time for politicians and the media, a general election period can also be good for businesses. While there are naturally concerns that things can slow down in the run up to a vote, it is also a chance for entrepreneurs and business leaders to have their voices heard.

And I'm not just talking about in the voting booth. This is one of the best times to get in front of politicians of all colours and positions. They are venturing out of the Westminster bubble to lay out their stall to the electorate and business should welcome them with open arms to also get their issues across.

At Pimlico Plumbers we regularly open our doors to politicians and it has enabled me to push issues such as apprenticeship training with them as well as giving my workforce the chance to speak to MPs and ministers that, in everyday life, they might not get the chance to do.

Candidates will be looking for places to visit in their constituencies in the run up to 8 June, and I would encourage businesses of all sizes to get involved. Of course, it could also be good publicity for firms as the election will dominate column inches and broadcast minutes for the next six weeks.

But more importantly, it will give us all another chance to highlight, face to face, our challenges and what the next government can do to help boost the backbone of Britain's economy.

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Sadiq kick-starts skills campaign

THE Mayor of London has launched a new skills agenda to ensure that all Londoners have the opportunity to train in the skills that the city's economy needs.

The Skills for Londoners Capital Fund will invest £114m in high-quality equipment and facilities at London's further education colleges and other education and training providers.

Sadiq Khan has also established a Skills for Londoners Taskforce comprising business leaders and employers, skills and education experts and London government representatives. The taskforce will develop a city-wide strategic approach so that Londoners and businesses can access the skills they need for future success.

The mayor is also proposing to establish a Construction Skills Academy later in the year, in partnership with the housebuilding industry. This will aim to close the gap between the demand for new housing in the capital and the need for more skilled construction workers.

London has a strong, dynamic, global economy, but the region's employment rate has lagged behind the national average for three decades. More than 280,000 Londoners are unemployed, with particularly high rates of youth unemployment. London also has a growing problem of in-work poverty, associated with low-skilled, low-paid work. Ensuring an effective and responsive skills system is critical to tackling these issues.

The mayor believes that an effective skills system is also critical to meeting the needs of London's businesses. Employers repeatedly report skills shortage vacancies and skills gaps in their workforce, impacting on growth and productivity. Given the uncertainty surrounding the terms of Britain's exit from the European Union, ensuring a more responsive skills system – as well as continued access to global talent – is more important than ever, according



London Mayor Sadiq Khan says it is vital for the London economy that people have access to skills training

Picture: SWNS

to the Mayor, in meeting employers' needs.

The Skills for Londoners Taskforce, working closely with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), will take an inclusive approach to post-16 education and skills, focusing primarily on further education and training but also looking at progression pathways from school and into higher education (HE).

It will also ensure that communities across London have access to training, and that from a young age both girls and boys are encouraged to explore the skills they need to make progress in the future economy. It will have a strong emphasis on gender equality, targeting opportunities for girls to excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills in particular.

Delivering on a key manifesto commitment, the Mayor officially launched Skills for Londoners today at South Thames College, in Merton, where he joined students who

are training to repair motor-cycles before seeking employment or setting up their own business.

Mr Khan said: "I want all Londoners to have the same opportunities I had growing up. Skills for Londoners is the first step towards making that happen.

"While London is a great place to learn, there is no doubt that not enough Londoners are getting the skills they need to live up to their potential. This also impacts businesses, hampering their growth and forcing them to look further afield for talent.

"Now that we are leaving the European Union, it is more important than ever that we make sure more Londoners gain access to the skills they and our economy truly need.

"The further education and skills sector has a vital role to play in making sure all Londoners can truly be part of London's prosperity.

"Through Skills for Londoners, we will address these problems head-on, giving Lon-

doners the chance to train in the skills that will boost our economy and creating a pipeline of local talent and expertise for our businesses to tap into."

The Skills For Londoners Capital Fund comprises £56m secured by LEAP, in the latest Growth Deal from Government, together with £58m of previously secured LEAP funding to invest in the estate and equipment of London's skills providers over the next four years.

Further Education colleges and approved training providers can now apply for funding for capital projects that are responsive and adaptable to current and future requirements of employers, improve training for those most at risk of falling out of education, employment and training, and create new apprenticeships.

In addition, the fund will look to invest in schemes that create strong partnerships with employers to support the development of provision and the creation of jobs.

formation, advice and guidance, technical and vocational education, adult learning and links with higher education. In addition, it will look at how London's businesses can get the maximum benefit from the new Apprenticeship levy paid by businesses to government.

Taskforce member, Ian Ashman, who is also President of the Association of Colleges said: "I believe that the Skills for Londoners Taskforce will have a really positive impact on the capital, helping Londoners to develop the skills to improve their lives and helping our employers get the skilled people they need to succeed. I am therefore delighted to have been invited by the Mayor to join the Taskforce, and look forward to bringing the perspective of 25 years of experience in London's colleges to its work."

Taskforce member, Seetha Kumar, who is also CEO of Creative Skillset, said: "London's creative industries are buoyant. But sector growth means we need more skilled people as well as people with different skills – for example, due to technological change. I'm looking forward to working with the Mayor and Taskforce members to improve skills development opportunities – for Londoners preparing to join the workforce and those already in employment – and build a more inclusive, agile workforce to support economic growth."

Jasmine Whitbread, chief executive of London First, said: "This is the kind of initiative on skills that London business has been wanting to see for some time, and the need is now even more acute with current uncertainty over immigration. With the clock counting down to Brexit, it's vital to move quickly to ensure Londoners have every opportunity to get skilled up and ready to fill the quarter million vacancies in London each year. Business will work closely with the Mayor to address our skills shortages and get the UK into the best possible shape ahead of 2019."

'True Blood' case concludes

BY LWN REPORTER
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A HARRODS salesman accused of harassing a female colleague after showing her a clip from TV vampire drama *True Blood* and "threatening to kill her" has been cleared.

Giacomo Marcolin, 21, was accused of harassing perfume expert Tabitha Gray from July to September last year while they worked on the Louis Vuitton counter in the world famous department store in west London.

Ms Gray told a trial at Hammersmith Magistrates Court that Mr Marcolin told her that he "wanted to kill everyone" and threatened to slit everyone's throats, including her own.

He was also accused of

showing her a picture of a dead fox and video of a woman being beaten to death by with a high heeled shoe.

On another occasion she accidentally stepped on his foot and she sorry, to which he said "you will be".

She then said 'are you threatening me?' and he "replied its not a threat it's a promise".

But Marcolin told the court that the talk about killing everyone was just a joke which he made several times to different colleagues.

The talk of the cutting of throats he said was in reference to a scene in TV show *American Horror Story*, which he explained at the time.

He said The picture of a dead fox was one he had sent to another friend and was just

among the pictures he had been showing her of his new flat on his phone.

He said the video of a woman being beaten to death with a shoe was a scene from vampire TV series *True Blood*, which he said he had explained to Ms Gray before he showed it to her.

Finally he said the comment made after she stood on his foot was just said in a jokey way and was not serious.

He said he was friends with her and had she told him at any time she was uncomfortable or given him that impression he would have stopped.

Mr Marcolin, of Tottenham, north London, was found not guilty of one charge of harassment following a two hour trial.

Police arrest terror suspect

BY LWN REPORTER
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POLICE arrested a young woman on suspicion of terror offences when she was released from hospital on Sunday – where she was being treated after being shot by police.

The 21-year-old woman was shot by officers during a terror raid that was carried out on Thursday evening.

Armed police stormed a home in Willesden, north west London, and shot the woman, and arrested five people.

Counter terror police officers also arrested a 43-year-old woman during another raid in Kent.

The woman was discharged from hospital on Sunday and

immediately arrested on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

A Metropolitan Police spokesperson said that she has been taken into custody at a south London police station.

Six other people were arrested on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of terrorist acts under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Males aged 16 and 28 were arrested at the home and a 21-year-old man was also detained near the Harlesden Road address.

There were also women aged 20 and 28 arrested at the north west London property.

Warrants for further detention were granted at Westminster

Magistrates' Court on Saturday, allowing the six suspects to be detained until dates between 2 May and 4 May.

They are currently in custody at a south London Police station.

A Metropolitan Police spokesperson said: "The address in Harlesden Road and persons connected with it had been under observation by counter terrorism officers as part of an ongoing intelligence-led operation.

"Searches at the address are ongoing, as well as two further searches at linked addresses elsewhere in London."

Police explained that this incident is not connected to the arrest in Whitehall earlier that Thursday.

Kensington property fraudster must pay £640,000 to his victims

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A PROPERTY developer who cheated the taxpayer out of £150,000 was forced to sell his multi-million pound Ascot mansion to repay his victims.

Keith Conner, 55, made £650,000 when he hijacked details of an offshore company in the British Virgin Islands to evade paying VAT and buy and sell mansions in London.

During his period of offending between June 2011 and October 2011 he cheated hard-working taxpayers out of £150,000.

Dad-of-two Conner raked in cash and enjoyed an affluent lifestyle in Ascot but he has now been forced to sell the home to repay the cash.

Conner, of Romsey, Hampshire, hijacked the details of Pruton Investment Holding Ltd to buy and sell property in leafy Kensington, central London. He forged a Power of Attorney document in the name of a Malaysian businessman to transfer £309,000 in profit into his bank account. Another property deal saw him purchase and sell a business property in Earl's Court Road, Earl's Court. Again he hijacked the details of a company to commit fraud,



Keith Conner, 55, made £650,000 when he hijacked details of an offshore company in the British Virgin Islands to evade paying VAT and buy and sell mansions in leafy Kensington



this time UK based company Bishopsgate Homes Ltd.

Signatures had been forged on the contracts, leading to £331,000 in profit from the sale being paid into another of Conner's accounts. UK business directors had no involvement with their company being used for such a transaction.

Reading Crown Court heard Conner had two previous convictions for fraud in 1992 and 1999, adding that he served a 12-month suspended sentence in 1999. Conner failed to declare any profit or pay any tax to HMRC and used counterfeit 'proof of funds' letters to carry out the fraud and was trading while disqualified as a company director.

He admitted five charges on January 25 last year and sentencing was delayed to allow him to sell his Ascot home to pay any future confiscation order. Last week he was jailed for three years and seven months and also disqualified from being a company director for seven years.

The confiscation order, which was set at £640,709, includes £150,000 to be paid to HMRC for the VAT evaded.

Conner was also disqualified as a company director for seven years.

Mayor gets tough with rogue agents

CRIMINAL landlords and letting agents who exploit their tenants will be 'named and shamed' on a new online database to protect the two million private renters in the capital, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has announced.

The new database, to be built in partnership with London boroughs and published on the Mayor's website, will cite criminal landlords and letting agents who have been successfully prosecuted for housing offences. The Mayor believes it will give Londoners greater confidence in renting in the capital, allowing them to check a prospective landlord or letting agent before moving into a property, and acting as a deterrent to the minority of landlords and agents who behave dishonestly.

Due to launch in the autumn, the database will enable councils London-wide easily to share information on landlords' criminal history and provide details of enforcement activity and investigations. As part of this new initiative, Londoners will be able to search the online database and report suspected criminal landlords or letting agents through London.gov.uk.

The 'name and shame' database will be developed in the coming months with information from six councils – Newham, Brent, Camden, Southwark, Kingston and Sutton – with other boroughs across London set to join following its public launch in the autumn.

The Mayor made the announcement as he joined a criminal landlord enforcement raid in Newham, carried out under the council's borough-wide licensing scheme for private rented properties. In 2013, Newham Council was the first local authority to be granted borough-wide licensing and has been very successful in tackling criminal landlords, prosecuting 1,100 criminal landlords – more than any other local authority in London – and banning 28 of the very worst from operating.

The council's five-year licensing scheme is due to expire in December, and Mr Khan has written to the government to support its renewal.

Alongside the Mayor's efforts to improve conditions in the private rented sector, he also today announced plans for a new Homes for Londoners property portal on City Hall's website, which aims to bring together in one place affordable homes to buy and rent in the capital.

Mr Khan, said: "I refuse to stand by as thousands of Londoners suffer sky-high rents and horrendous living conditions in a city they call home. I have seen first-hand the abysmal conditions that some of London's private renters are forced to endure as a result of rogue landlords. I want to be clear that the vast majority of landlords treat renters well – but a minority are exploiting their tenants and it's simply unacceptable. This must stop now. To help renters, I will be working in partnership with London Boroughs to launch my new 'name and shame' database of criminal landlords and letting agents to help Londoners before they rent a property, and to deter dishonest landlords and agents from operating."

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Bogus bobby cons woman

AN elderly woman was conned out of her life-savings by a fraudster pretending to be a police officer.

The trickster called the 73-year-old victim on her mobile phone from a man who said he was a police officer in the Met.

He said that her debit card had been stopped due to fraudulent use and he needed her help with a sting operation to catch a group of offenders targeting elderly and vulnerable people in the area.

The con man persuaded her to go to a bureau de change in Liverpool Street Station to buy 5,000 Euros, as part of what is known as a courier fraud.

He said the cash would be counterfeit and he would use it as evidence in the case by putting it in a ghost account he had set up, adding that his assistant would meet her to collect the money.

She was told to go to a watch shop in Knightsbridge, west London, to purchase a watch that cost £25,050 after getting the call at 6.30pm on March 28.

After buying the watch the next day, the victim was instructed to meet the same assistant as before at Knightsbridge Tube Station to hand it over.

The victim then received a phone call from the fake police officer saying her evidence had been accepted.

After this, the victim, who lives in Dulwich, south London, was then unable to get in touch with him and she became suspicious and contacted the police.

Detectives have released a CCTV image of a man they wish to speak to in connection with the case.

Footage shows the suspect talking on the phone, then chatting to a man in a puffer jacket, before walking off.

He is described as Asian, about 5ft 8ins and aged in his 20s.

DC Michael Esangbedo from Southwark CID said: "I am pleading with anyone that recognises the man in the CCTV to get in touch with police."

"The offenders have deliberately deceived the victim out of her life-savings. We are determined to bring those responsible to justice to prevent anyone else falling for the scam."

"We would urge people to remain vigilant at all times and any suspicions should be reported to the police."

"It is also worth noting that the police will never call members of the public and ask them to be part of a 'sting' operation."



Theresa May and Carrot Soup: a delicious and creamy concoction



Jeremy Corbyn: not a labour-intensive pasta, made with spaghetti, cream and bacon



Paul Nuttall and Banana Crepe: a UKIP favourite for Tea Terrace diners



The Tea Terrace, in Oxford Street and Victoria Street, will be serving politics-themed dishes throughout May

Waiter, there's a politician in my soup

A LONDON restaurant has launched a light-hearted general election menu serving Jeremy Corbyn and Theresa May-ple and carrot soup.

The Tea Terrace will be serving the politics-themed dishes throughout May ahead of the June 8 snap election.

The menu features five dishes – a starter, three main courses and a dessert – all of which have names inspired by the parties competing in the election.

Ehab Shouly, director of The Tea Terrace, who have two Central London branches and one in Guildford, Surrey, says people are “tired of elections”.

He said: “We are aware that many people in the country are tired of elections, and that’s a discussion we’ve heard many of our

customers have following Mrs. May’s announcement. So we wanted to lighten the mood a little bit for our customers.”

Ehab hopes to get a feel of the way people will vote during the general election by keeping track of which of the dishes are ordered the most.

He added: “It’s not scientific but perhaps it will shed some light on the outcome. Since the prime minister announced the snap elections, we’ve seen that a lot of the discussions happening around the dining tables at our restaurants have been on the subject of the election.

“People are just tired of voting I guess. So we’re helping them a little by poking a bit of innocent fun.”

The Tea Terrace also had an American presidential election menu, featuring dishes like Trump-

kin Soup. According to the menu, the five dishes in The Tea Terrace’s UK General Elections menu are as follows:

Starter: Theresa May and Carrot Soup: a delicious and creamy soup made with pureed carrots and maple syrup.

Main: Jeremy Corbyn: not a labour-intensive pasta, made with spaghetti, fresh cream and bacon.

Liberal Democrats Linguine: A comforting dish of creamy linguine pasta “liberally” sprinkled with chunks of white crab meat with peas and cherry tomatoes.

U-Kipper Risotto: a delicious mediterranean vegetable risotto topped with flakes of smoked kippers

Dessert: Paul Nuttall and Banana Crepe: a UKIP favourite and a beloved classic

Capital progress in mission to improve diagnosis of dementia

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

EXPERTS in London have shown that a new test to spot glaucoma a decade before other symptoms start to show may also be used to diagnose dementia.

The simple eye test allowed optometrists to see individual nerve cell death at the back of the eye.

Loss of sight in patients with glaucoma is caused by the death of cells in the retina at the back of the eye, called apoptosis.

As with other neurodegenerative conditions, more and more nerve cells are lost as the disease progresses.

The test could one day also be used to early diagnose other degenerative neurological conditions, including Parkinson’s and multiple sclerosis.

The common eye condition

happens when the optic nerve, which connects the eye to the brain, becomes damaged and can lead to loss of vision if not detected and treated early on.

It usually occurs when the fluid in the eye cannot drain properly, which increases the pressure inside the eye and puts pressure on the optic nerve.

However, it doesn’t usually have any symptoms to begin with and is often only picked up during a routine eye test.

Many sufferers don’t realise they have it because it develops slowly over many years and tends to cause a loss of peripheral vision at first.

It’s not possible to reverse any loss of vision that occurred before glaucoma was diagnosed, but treatment can help stop vision getting any worse.

The pioneering diagnostic was developed by researchers

at University College London and the Western Eye Hospital.

Professor Francesca Cordeiro at UCL Institute of Ophthalmology said: “Detecting glaucoma early is vital as symptoms are not always obvious.”

“Although detection has been improving, most patients have lost a third of vision by the time they are diagnosed.

“Now, for the first time, we have been able to show individual cell death and detect the earliest signs of glaucoma.”

“While we cannot cure the disease, our test means treatment can start before symptoms begin.

“In the future, the test could also be used to diagnose other neurodegenerative diseases.”

Professor Philip Bloom, Chief Investigator at Western Eye Hospital, part of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, added: “Treatment is

much more successful when it is begun in early stages of the disease, when sight loss is minimal.

“Our developments mean we could diagnose patients 10 years earlier than was previously possible.”

The technique developed is called DARC, which stands for detection of apoptosing retinal cells.

It uses a specially developed fluorescent marker which attaches to cell proteins when injected into patients.

Sick cells appear as white fluorescent spots during eye examination.

The examination uses equipment used during routine hospital eye examinations and eventually it may be possible for opticians to do the tests, enabling even earlier detection of the disease.

The research is funded by Wellcome Trust and Bethan Hughes, said: “This innova-

tion has the potential to transform lives for those who suffer loss of sight through glaucoma, and offers hope of a breakthrough in early diagnosis of other neurodegenerative diseases.

“Loss of sight as you age is an incredibly difficult disability, impacting quality of life and independence.”

Initial clinical trials were carried out on a small number of glaucoma patients and compared with tests on healthy people.

The initial clinical trials established the safety of the test for patients.

Further studies will now be carried out into DARC and how it can be used not only to diagnose and treat glaucoma patients but also for other neurodegenerative conditions.

Results of first clinical trials was published in the journal *BRAIN*.

Sadiq snubs garden bridge

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan has withdrawn his support for the Garden Bridge project.

In a letter to Lord Mervyn Davies, the Chair of the Garden Bridge Trust, the Mayor outlined his view that the continuation of the project will expose the London taxpayer to additional financial risk, both with regard to the bridge’s construction and its operation and maintenance.

Before making the decision, the Mayor analysed the findings of Dame Margaret Hodge’s independent review into the Garden Bridge project, and assessed all the information available about the project to date.

During the Mayoral campaign and since his election last year, the Mayor has repeatedly stated that he would not agree to any more of London taxpayers’ money for which he is responsible being spent on the Garden Bridge project. He had also made clear that he would not provide any Mayoral guarantees unless he was convinced that the project would not lead to additional public expenditure down the line.

In outlining the reasons for the Mayor’s decision not to provide any Mayoral guarantees, today’s letter outlines a number of ways in which the project would expose the London taxpayer to additional financial risk. These include:

- increasing capital costs of the project;
- the risk of the bridge only being partially built; and
- doubts over the establishment of an endowment fund to help meet future maintenance costs.

Mr Khan said: “Under the previous Mayor, a considerable amount of London taxpayers’ money has already been spent on the Garden Bridge. I have always been clear that not a penny more of taxpayers’ money should be allocated to the project.

“Having assessed all the information available to me including the findings of Dame Margaret Hodge’s independent review, my view is that providing Mayoral guarantees will expose the London taxpayer to too much additional financial risk.

“With planning permission due to expire this year, many outstanding issues remain, including spiralling construction costs and doubts around funding the maintenance of the bridge.

“The funding gap is now at over £70million and it appears unlikely that the Trust will succeed in raising the private funds required for the project. I am simply not prepared to risk a situation where the taxpayer has to step in and contribute significant additional amounts to ensure the project is completed.”



The proposed location for the Garden Bridge crossing

Mum's death after medics' 'gross failure'

BY LWN REPORTER
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A BBC *Antiques Roadshow* expert died following the "neglect and gross failure" of hospital staff to start CPR when she suffered a cardiac arrest on a mental health ward, an inquest jury has found.

Sotheby's jewellery expert Alice Gibson-Watt, died in hospital following a bout of postpartum psychosis, which affects one in 1,000 mums.

West London Coroner's Court heard the 34-year-old, from Fulham, had suffered a ruptured liver and suffered internal bleeding before going into cardiac arrest November 2012.

The jury concluded staff at Lakeside mental health unit failed to monitor her vital signs properly and that a defibrillator at the unit was not used to resuscitate her.

In October she had given birth to her first daughter Chiara Charlotte with husband Anthony Gibson-Watt.

The 34-year-old was restrained by paramedics and police officers in the back of an ambulance after they were called to her Fulham home on November 14 following a psychotic episode.

Today after a three weeks inquest a jury gave a narrative conclusion into the death Mrs Gibson-Watt and found she died from a hypoxic brain injury caused by cardiac arrest.

They also concluded that "neglect and gross failure" of staff at the Lakeside mental health unit to commence CPR contributed to her death.

Mrs Gibson-Watt was taken to A&E and then transferred to the Lakeside Mental Health Unit at the West Midlands University Hospital, run by West London Mental Health Trust.

While there her mental health deteriorated further and she was restrained and put in isolation for more than seven hours.

She suffered a cardiac arrest and it was decided she had to undergo urgent surgery after a tear to her liver caused serious internal bleeding.

She was transferred to a

specialist intensive care unit at Kings College Hospital, in south London where she died on November 20.

Today the jury of 11 recorded there were missed opportunities while she was under the care of Lakeside.

They concluded that she died of "Hypoxic brain injury caused by cardiac arrest, to which negligent and gross failure of Lakeside staff to commence CPR and use the defibrillator contributed."

They also found the monitoring of her health while she was in seclusion was "inadequate and insufficient" and didn't meet with the unit's own policy.

In their narrative verdict they said: "Seclusion started at 15.00hours on November 15, until 22.25 During this period she was monitored within eyesight.

"However, monitoring and recording of her vital signs were inadequate and insufficient and not in accordance with Lakeside policy on observation and monitoring. Oral and written communication was poor and insufficient.

"Prior to her seclusion and the administration of anti-psychotic drugs, opportunities were missed for a thorough medical assessment and ECG. Considering the liver laceration there was no evidence of trauma when she was admitted to Lakeside. But there was evidence by 5.30am on November 16 an injury to the liver had been sustained. It is probable that the liver injury was sustained whilst Alice was having a psychotic episode in the lead up to her seclusion. Her liver was more vulnerable due to postpartum steatosis."

The jury found she went into cardiac arrest at some time after 3am on November 16 but CPR was not started until some time after 3.25am and a crash team and ambulance team were called at 3.31am.

However, the ambulance team's arrival was delayed due to entrance door being locked and no member of staff to let them inside the unit.

The jury found: "A defibrillator was used at 3.40am. Despite there being one in the



TRUST APOLOGISES TO FAMILY

THE mental health hospital trust has apologised to the family of a BBC *Antiques Roadshow* expert who died after being in its care.

Carolyn Regan, Chief Executive of West London Mental Health NHS Trust said: "Our thoughts are with Alice's family at this difficult time. It is clear that on this occasion we did not meet the high expectations we set ourselves and for that we are very sorry.

"Following this sad case in 2012, a multi-agency investigation was commissioned and co-ordinated by Chelsea & Westminster NHS Foundation Trust at the request of NHS England. We are now a very different and much improved organisation compared to 2012.

"Increasingly our patients have complex mental and physical healthcare needs and it is essential that our care and treatment responds to both."

She said the trust has made a number of improvements to the physical healthcare it provides for, including the appointment of a specialist physical healthcare nurse consultant, dedicated training for clinical staff a strengthened recording system that allows us to spot warning signs earlier.

She added: "However, we know that there is still more for us to do and more we can learn from the detailed outcome of this case. Over the coming days I will be writing to Alice's family and we will be examining the full detail of the Coroner's findings to establish if there are further improvements we can put in place."

Alice Gibson-Watt died after being restrained while suffering severe panic attack just five weeks after giving birth to her first child, an inquest heard

room it was not used by Lakeside staff. The defibrillator that was used on Alice was the one provided by the ambulance team."

Mrs Gibson-Watt, who is believed to be related to the Duke of Buccleuch, met her husband through a mutual friend at a party when she was 18 and he was 21.

Coroner Sarah Ormond-Walshe thanked the jury for all their work and will send a prevention of future death report to NHS England raising the identification of acute physical health issues of patients in acute mental health units.

Scandal of our empty homes

ENGLAND has 200,145 long-term empty homes which, according to research by property investment marketplace Property Partner, are worth more than £43bn.

In London alone, there were 19,845 homes sitting idle for over six months in 2016 – that is £9.4billion worth of property, taking into account the average price in London of £474,704.

Birmingham was the worst performer outside London with 4,397 properties sitting empty – up 13 per cent in a year – with an estimated value of £956m. Bradford had the second highest figure at 3,944 (down 5 per cent valued at £858m) followed by Liverpool on 3,449 (up 5 per cent valued at £750m). Manchester has seen the greatest fall over a decade, dropping 88 per cent to 1,365.

The tables have turned in London where one of the most deprived areas has swapped places with one of the wealthiest as the capital's worst performer.

Prime property hotspot Kensington and Chelsea has London's highest number of long-term vacant homes with 1,399 empty, up 8.5 per cent on last year and a rise of 22.7 per cent in a decade. Taking into account the Royal Borough's unusually high average property prices, this would give the homes an estimated value of £2bn. Previously, last place in the capital had gone to Newham which has staged a remarkable turnaround in 12 months, slashing the number of empty homes by 55 per cent to 593 from 1,318 in 2015.

Property Partner analysed the latest data from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), looking at long-term vacant dwellings in England between 2005 and 2016.

Over the last decade the number of long-term vacant homes in England has dropped 36.4 per cent from 314,719 in 2006 but it has barely moved year-on-year, showing a drop of 35 per cent in the decade to 2015. The estimated value of empty property in England now stands at £43.5billion.

Harrow saw the biggest rise in England with a 571 per cent climb to 651 from 97 in 2015.

MP's aide will face rape trial

A TORY MP's aide accused of raping a woman in the Palace of Westminster will face trial later this year.

Samuel Armstrong, 23, the chief of staff to South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay, is accused of carrying out the attack on October 14 last year.

He appeared at Southwark Crown Court last week charged with two counts of rape, one count of assault by penetration and one count of sexual assault. Wearing a black suit, white shirt and green spotted tie, he spoke to confirm his name and pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

A previous court heard the attack is alleged to have happened in Conservative MP Mr Mackinlay's office in the Palace of Westminster.

Judge Deborah Taylor set a date for trial, which is expected to last between five and seven days, for December 11.

Armstrong, of Copt Hill, Danbury, Essex, was bailed to attend his trial on December 11.

Husband: our romance was long and wonderful

THE husband of Sotheby's jewellery expert Alice Gibson-Watt said the inquest findings will help the family move forward.

Speaking after the inquest's conclusion, Anthony Gibson-Watt said: "I and all of Alice's family would like to thank the Coroner and all those involved in the inquest for carrying out such a thorough investigation of the cir-

cumstances leading up to Alice's death.

"It will never bring Alice back, but it has given us a better understanding of how she came to die and in time may help us to move forward."

Mrs Gibson-Watt, who is believed to be related to the Duke of Buccleuch, met her husband through a mutual friend at a party when she was 18 and he was 21.

Giving evidence and describing his wife during the three week inquest, he said: "Our romance was long and wonderful, we were a lucky couple. Best friends, soulmates with entwined interests. Alice insisted on a drug-free birth to give her daughter the very best start possible. She was enthralled by motherhood.

"One day I will tell our

daughter more about her wonderful mother."

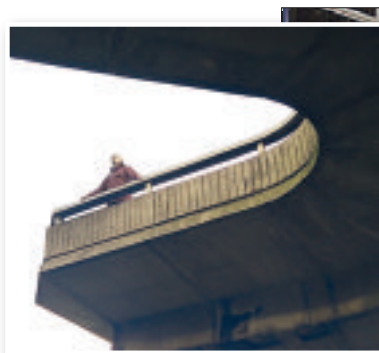
Claire Fazan of law firm Leigh Day which represented Alice's family at the inquest said: "Postpartum psychosis is a terrible illness about which much more education is required.

"However, it was not what killed Alice. Her tragic death was the result of basic failings in the care provided to

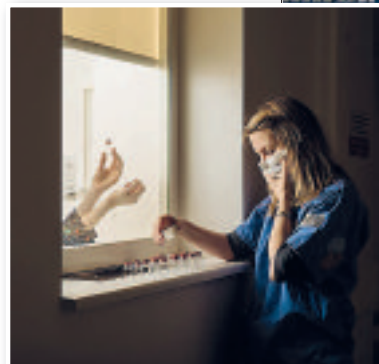
her at the Lakeside Unit when she suffered a cardiac arrest. But for that, she would still be alive."

Postpartum psychosis, causes a severe and sudden bout of mental illness and affects one in 1,000 mums.

In the UK more than 1,400 women are treated for the symptoms, including paranoia and hallucinations, each year.



Charlie Warde on an unbuilt spur of Westway Flyover



Message in A Bottle - Kate Hughes
Picture: Mike Massaro



A flavour of Pasifika will be part of the mix at the InTransit festival



Mr Danger - Sam Quinn - will entertain at the InTransit festival in Kensington and Chelsea

Picture: Mike Massaro

Festival entertainment on the way

A SERIES of giant sandcastles produced in conjunction with the Museum of Architecture will pop up across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea during June as part of the InTransit festival.

The theme of this year's festival is 'Island Life' and over the course of 17 days exhibitors will explore the contrasts of urban isolation and connectivity and in the process celebrate community and the principle that 'no man is an island'.

In addition to the sandcastles other highlights of the festival, which runs from Friday 9 June to Sunday 25 June, includes an im-

mersive exploration of JG Ballard's novel *Concrete Island*; an electro-folk opera at the Print Room; and a day of dance and participation from Polynesia and Melanesia.

InTransit, which is now in its 11th year, is funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Arts, Cllr Timothy Coleridge said: "InTransit offers unforgettable experiences, giving residents and visitors alike the opportunity to discover the unfamiliar in familiar places across Kensington and Chelsea.

"As ever, many of the events in

the festival programme are free. Do come along with your friends and family, and live the experience for yourselves."

Festival curators O'Neill/Ross explained: "This is our fourth year at the helm of InTransit, and we look forward with eager anticipation to an ambitious summer of giant sandcastles, mass vocal projects, pulsating motorway art, and three weeks of non-stop creative activities."

For a full programme of festival activities, go to the website www.intransitfestival.co.uk or follow on twitter @intransitfest

New bid for justice for families of Hyde Park bombing victims

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE families of British soldiers murdered by the IRA in the 1982 Hyde Park bombing have launched a crowdfunding campaign to bring the main suspect to justice.

They are trying to raise £640,000 to bring a private prosecution against IRA terrorist John Downey after he walked free from the Old Bailey in 2014.

He is accused of planting the bomb and has been wanted for 31 years but it emerged he and 200 other IRA terrorists were given immunity from prosecution by the Blair government in a secret deal.

Now families and survivors of the bombing said the funding for a private legal action was the last resort after they were refused legal aid.

The blast targeting the Household Cavalry killed four soldiers - Roy Bright, 36, Anthony Daly, 23, Simon Tipper and Jeffrey Young, both

19 - and injured 31 others in July 1982.

They had been on their way to Buckingham Palace to take part in the daily Changing of the Guard when a huge nail bomb, containing 25 pounds of high explosive was detonated by remote control as their troop rode past.

Many tourists witnessing the passing parade were injured and seven of the regiment's horses were also killed with only one, Sefton, famously surviving.

The campaign has received cross party support when it was launched at the Houses of Parliament.

Those lending their support included Lord Tebbit, whose wife Margaret was paralysed in the Brighton bombing, Colonel Bob Stewart MP, Danny Kinahan MP, Kate Hoey MP, Sir Peter Bottomley and Meg Hillier MP.

The families were represented by Mark Tipper, who lost his brother Trooper Simon, Sarah Jane Young and Judith Jenkins, daughter and

widow of Lance Corporal Young, and bomb-survivor Simon Utley. They accused one government after another of turning its back on the victims and families.

The campaign also aims to ensure no terrorist is ever allowed to act with impunity in the UK and victims of terrorist attacks are given proper support and access to justice, to counter-balance that given to terrorists and the on-going pursuit of British servicemen through the courts.

The fund on www.crowdjustice.org/hydepark is aiming to raise an initial £40,000 for lawyers and has raised £30,325 in 689 donations.

The families are represented by McCue & Partners LLP which until now has been working pro bono.

The firm represented the families of the victims of the 1998 bombing of Omagh by the Real IRA, in ground-breaking and successful civil proceedings against the bombers and the terrorist organisation itself.

It was the first time that victims had brought a private prosecution against the terrorists when the state had failed or been unable to act.

Former oyster farmer Downey from the Republic was arrested at Gatwick Airport en route to Canada when his details flashed up on the police computer saying he was wanted for the bombing in May 2013.

But his prosecution was dropped because Northern Ireland gave him false assurances he would not be arrested if he set foot in the UK.

This was despite knowing he was wanted by Metropolitan Police over the Hyde Park atrocities

On the advice of New Labour appointee Baroness Scotland of Asthal and then Northern Ireland Secretary Shaun Woodward, Downey was given a "clear written reassurance" in 2007 he was not wanted for arrest, charge or questioning in Northern Ireland. But the Old Bailey heard failings in the "on the run

scheme," which listed wanted terrorists, had not picked up that Downey was wanted for the mass killings.

Under the Good Friday Peace Process Downey, if ever convicted, would only serve a maximum of two years behind bars for the killings.

Prosecutors had identity evidence Downey was involved in a reconnaissance on June 30 and July 1, 1982, and was linked to the bomb car, a blue Morris Marina car, on July 14, a day after it had been bought at a north London auction by a man who gave false details.

His fingerprints were also found on a parking ticket from an NCP car park in Portland Square dated July 17-18 and a NCP ticket from the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington dated July 18 - 20 from which the car emerged little under four hours before the bombing was carried out.

Downey was convicted of being an IRA member by the Special Crime Board in Dublin in 1974.

Court fine for rogue landlord

THE landlord of a Holland Park property, described by a District Judge as a "deathtrap" and an "accident waiting to happen", has been fined £57,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,825 and a victim surcharge of £120 after a sentencing hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court on Wednesday, 26 April.

David Leslie Symonds, landlord of 118 Woodsford Square W14, which lacked a proper fire detection system and several other fire precautions, pleaded guilty on Wednesday 1 March to two offences under the Housing Act 2004, one offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and 18 breaches of House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) regulations at the same court.

The property, a 1950s four-storey, mid-terraced building, was let to six tenants.

Environmental health officers from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea inspected the flat after being alerted by the fire brigade, which had been called out to a fire at the property.

Officers found a number of safety breaches. While the flat did have a battery-operated smoke detector in the ground floor hallway, there was no automatic fire detection system within the property, meaning there was no proper early warning system to alert occupants of a fire.

There was also an absence of fire safety equipment, fixtures and fittings including smoke seals and fire separation between bedsit rooms. There was an absence of fire doors to some rooms and damaged fire doors to others, with holes in at least one of the doors. This increased the likelihood of a fire spreading through the building rapidly.

All of the bedsit rooms were fitted with key-operated locks meaning that, in the event of a fire, there was a risk of the occupant being locked in their room. There were loose electrical cables with multiple electrical adaptors being used, which could increase the likelihood of a fire occurring due to extra load on electrical circuits. There was no evidence of a current Gas Safe certificate for the boiler or heating system. One escape route, a staircase leading to the property's garden, was obstructed by a table, chairs and a gas cylinder.

The court heard that Mr Symonds failed to apply for a HMO licence, which was required as the property had six tenants who were not related.

In mitigation, the court heard that Symonds accepted he was not managing his affairs properly at the time and that he could have benefitted from the services of a property management agent.

At sentencing, defence mitigated that Symonds did not have flagrant disregard for his responsibilities, rather he had a medical condition and was not capable of managing property. Moreover, it learned that Symonds is no longer letting the Woodsford Square property and is due to sell it.

Symonds was also given credit for an early guilty plea.

On sentencing, District Judge Coleman said the building was an "accident waiting to happen".

More information about landlords' HMO responsibilities can be found online at www.rbkc.gov.uk/housing/living-healthy-homes/houses-multiple-occupation



Dawson Heights estate in East Dulwich, South-East London, was designed by architect Kate Macintosh at the age of 26. The two uniquely designed buildings were designed in the style of ship

A different way of

A PHOTOGRAPHER has captured London from a normally unseen perspective away from the city's iconic skyline - experimental housing estates.

Instead of the famous sites of the Shard and the Gherkin Joe Newman has focused on fancy social housing in the capital.

The stunning snaps cover the whole of London from Grade II listed estates built in the sixties in Camden, north London, to the striking design of the intriguingly nicknamed the 'Italian' hill in Dulwich, south London.

One of those featured is the Alexandra Road Estate in Camden.

Designed in 1968 by architect Neave Brown and built in 1978 the estate went on to be used in films and music videos thanks to its brutalist architecture.

Nicknamed Rowley Way, the 520-apartment estate features in Danny Boyle's 28 Weeks Later as well as TV shows Spooks and Silent Witness.

Indie bands Foals and The 1975 also used the estate in their music videos.

The crescent-shaped site was granted Grade II listed status in 1993 and Peter Brooke, then Heritage Secretary, as "one of the most distinguished groups of buildings in England since the Second World War."

Over in Finsbury Park, north London, is Andover Estate built in 1938 and famed for its pyramid design.

The estate is made of three triangular buildings called Didbin, Noll and Docura Houses, named after local architects.

In Tottenham, north London, resides Broadwater Farm Estate, an experiment in high-density social housing built in the late 1960s.

When it was first built the estate contained 1,063 flats which could house up to 4,000 people.

One of the photos shows the estates Tangmere block with its distinctive ziggurat structure.

It features a water mural which was painted after huge riots which took place there in 1985.

The mural was part of a regeneration programme there aimed at reducing crime.

Photographer Joe also visited Brownfield Estate in Poplar, east London as part of the project.

The estate also has a Grade II listed status and is one of London's most famous brutalist structures.

Also in Poplar is Robin Hood Gardens, designed in the sixties and finished in 1972.

Its broad aerial walkways are supposed to give the impression of "streets in the sky".

In south London's East Dulwich is Dawson Heights, also known as the 'Italian' hill town.

It was designed by architect Kate Macintosh when she was just 26 in the 1960s who wanted the buildings to look like a ship.

Its undulating buildings on its hill-top location have become a prominent feature of the skyline in that part of south-east London.

In the City of London is Golden Lane estate which was built on a site that was heavily bombed in the Second World War.

It is known for its bold use of primary colours and also has grade II listed status.

The photographer also travelled to Brixton to capture Southwyk House known as "Barrier block".

The large housing estate is also in the brutalist style and was designed in the late sixties.

Also in the brutalist style is Southmere Estate in Thamesmead, south-east London.

Its compelling architecture has attracted film and TV productions such as Clockwork Orange and Misfits.

The last of the housing estate photo series shows Boundary Estate in trendy Shoreditch, east London.

It was opened in 1900 and is the earliest social housing scheme built by a local government authority.

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Portobello Rd Market Office	72 Tavistock Road		W11 1AN
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove		W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Road	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Co-op Store	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
Awonmere Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG
Fulham Good Neighbours	70 Rosalind Road		SW6 7QT

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS



Golden Lane estate in the City of London, this photo and above, is built on a site that was heavily bombed in the Second World War

looking at the city



The uniquely designed Alexandra Road Estate in Camden, North London, which is the only one of its kind in the world and is now Grade II* listed



Robin Hood Gardens in Poplar, East London, was built as a council housing estate described as homes spread across 'streets in the sky'.



Southwyck House on the Somerleyton Estate in Brixton, South London. The estate's unique architecture was designed to deflect noise and fumes due to a motorway project being proposed at the time but now abandoned



Southmere Estate in Thamesmead, South-East London

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NHS terror referrals are 'very low'

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE government's anti-radicalisation strategy is having little impact on the NHS amid concerns the scheme is 'Islamophobic', according to new research.

The Prevent strategy obliges trusts to refer to police people they suspect of engaging in some sort of terrorist activity or radical behaviour.

Since summer 2015 it has placed a statutory duty on schools, universities and the NHS to identify individuals - both patients and colleagues - they believe are at risk.

But new figures, collected by *The BMJ*, uncovered low levels of referrals to Prevent since the duty took hold.

Figures obtained by Freedom of Information requests from 59 acute trusts in England found only 75 referrals to the programme between 2015-16.

A further 74 trusts replied but withheld information - some because the actual number of referrals was so small, others on security grounds.

The findings follow the terrorist attack that killed five people in Westminster last month which put Prevent under the spotlight.

Fears about radicalisation within the NHS were raised when Doctor Issam Abuanza, from Sheffield, South York-



A terrorist attack killed five people in Westminster last month

Picture: SWNS

shire, deserted his wife and two children in 2014 to join the militant group.

A recent report by the US Open Society Justice Initiative was critical of the strategy pointing out the threat it poses to the doctor-patient relationship and how it tramples on confidentiality.

Manchester GP Siema Iqbal shares many of these concerns. The Prevent

strategy is meant to identify anyone who may commit terrorist acts - from far right extremists to extreme animal rights activists to Islamist

radicals - but it's mainly associated with Islamist extremism.

She said: "The strategy is Islamophobic. It targets specific communities. The Home Office is trying to push it through as safeguarding, but with safeguarding the priority is the patient.

"Here, the patient is not the priority, it's the state. I work in an inner city area where there is a high ethnic diversity and many asylum seekers.

"I worry my patients are not disclosing to me every-

thing they should. A GP's room should be a safe space, and patients should be able to talk about anything."

The General Medical Council told *The BMJ* the duty does not apply to individual doctors or "change the circumstances in which they are obliged to report concerns about patients."

But its updated confidentiality guidance makes it clear in certain circumstances, such as assisting in the prevention, detection, or prosecution of serious crime, doctors would be "justified in

disclosing information about patients in the public interest."

Mental health trusts in England recorded a much higher level of referrals: 23 of the trusts (40 per cent) were willing to provide data, showing a total of 254 referrals.

This higher number is not surprising given that psychiatric patients are more likely to discuss such issues with their doctor.

The data also shows how many NHS staff have been left ill-prepared to deal with the Prevent programme.

The BMJ asked trusts whether staff receive training, and responses from 134 acute trusts (81 per cent) and 57 mental health trusts (95 per cent) reveal a mixed picture.

For example, at St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, south west London, just 4.5 per cent have been trained, but at Barts Health NHS Trust, east London, 94 per cent staff have undergone the Home Office-approved training.

Other criticisms of Prevent is the lack of transparency about patients who have been referred and that the training offered to doctors and health-care staff is limited.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has also questioned the "variable quality of the evidence" underpinning the Prevent strategy and has called

for it to be published in full.

Scotland Yard's top anti-terror officer Mark Rowley told *The BMJ* the involvement of the NHS in Prevent is "massively important, more important than it's ever been."

He claims out of 13 attacks which the security services say they have foiled since 2013, "a disproportionate number of them do have mental health issues." He would not specify a number.

But he stressed any suggestion mental illness causes terrorism is "complete nonsense" - and is adamant collaboration between the NHS and the police is about safeguarding vulnerable people, not surveillance to identify criminals.

Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner Rowley admits there needs to be more transparency around the strategy to win over sceptical clinicians.

And he acknowledges research is racing to catch up with the change in terrorist tactics from networks to inciting lone attacks.

But he points to two ongoing projects that aim to improve understanding of connections between mental health and vulnerability to radicalisation.

Mr Rowley said: "This is new and dynamic and we are going to have to learn to get together."

Welcome to Ellesmere House care home



Ellesmere House is a modern, comfortable, purpose-built care home with a great location in the heart of Chelsea, west London. We provide personalised residential, nursing and respite care for older people, and our dedicated team are experts in supporting individuals living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.



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Keep active and have fun

Helping residents stay active and independent is at the heart of everything we do at Ellesmere House. Our compassionate team will support and actively encourage your loved one to take part in activities that will help them to remain physically and mentally active. You name it, we do it: from baking and cake decorating to a variety of arts and crafts. We also organise regular reminiscence sessions, singalongs, games and quizzes.

Why not get in touch to meet members of the care team and take a tour of the home. For more information please call **020 3733 1949** or email lorelei.shepherd@careuk.com

**Ellesmere House, 9 Nightingale Place,
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careuk.com/ellesmere-house



The last D-stock District Line train, left, on its penultimate journey at Upminster where nostalgic commuters celebrated the end of an era as the last 'old-style' Tube train finished its final journey.



End of the line for the D train

NOSTALGIC commuters have celebrated the end of an era as the last 'old-style' Tube train finished its final journey.

The last D-stock District Line train, introduced in 1980, was withdrawn from service on Friday after the classic trains were phased out for new stock.

Just three six-car trains remained in service until Thursday, with the last running its final journey from Upminster, east London, to Ealing Broadway, west London, during the evening rush hour.

Tube buffs clambered for a space on the 280-seat train, designed with a double set of seats facing one another in the middle of each carriage.

Transport analyst Julian Phatarfod tweeted: "Caught the D. Lots of commotion, whistles, announcements and spotters."

Laura Phelps added: "Last D stock train ran on the District Line yesterday. Why do I feel a bit emotional about this?"

One of the trains, number 7007, held the rare honour of carrying the Olympic torch from Wimbledon to Wimbledon Park during London 2012.

A final farewell tour will take place on Sunday May 7, costing £50 for adults and £25 for children.

It will run from High Street Kensington to Ealing Broadway, with a lunch break at the Piccadilly line station of Northfields.



Nostalgic commuters scrambled for places on the last journey of the D

What's a typical day at Ellesmere House?
Sprucing up the garden



At Ellesmere House care home we support residents to get the most out of every day. We also believe in sharing our expertise.

Join our next free event:

Parkinson's awareness

Wednesday 10th May 2017, 2pm - 4pm

Free event

Ellesmere House is pleased to welcome Nick Ephgrave from Parkinson's UK, who will be sharing information and advice to help those affected by Parkinson's and their loved ones.

The event will also include:

- Expert guidance for improving life for those affected by Parkinson's
- A chance to meet our friendly team and take a closer look at our home
- Complimentary refreshments

For more information or to book your free place please RSVP on **020 3733 1949** or email lorelai.shepherd@careuk.com

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care UK

We can make great things happen through small grants

Westway Trust chief executive
Angela McConville

shares stories of some of the people and projects to receive funds made possible by land under the Westway



WESTWAY Trust has a long history of being a local grant maker – redistributing funds generated through the trust's property back into local projects, event

and initiatives.

The grants are small but over and over we see examples of how small amounts of funding can make a significant impact.

Last year more than 13,000 people attended events supported by our grants. This year, across our grants programmes, we have another £175,000 available to the local community.

Over the last few weeks we've allocated a large portion of that funding and I want to talk about some of the groups and individuals doing great work with the help of these funds, highlight some terrific local projects and hopefully inspire others to apply for funding in future.

Our newest grants are made from the Festivals Fund. We've always supported local arts

events but this year we wanted to make it easier for newer and less established festivals to apply for funding and to involve local creative people in deciding where that funding goes.

The Festivals Fund is a pot of £60,000 from which a panel of 15 members of the newly established Westway Arts Network, which connects local artists, cultural organisations and venues, make grants of up to £5,000 per festival.

The annual Golborne Road Festival, one of the inaugural 12 grant recipients, celebrates the community of a great North Kensington neighbourhood and features something for the whole family including a live music stage, dance, food from around the world, children's entertainment, arts and community stalls and sports and fitness activities. It's a must for residents and visitors alike.

Our Community Grants fund is currently £100,000 a year and our ambition is for it to grow in line with any surplus income we receive from rents on the estate.

Through this fund we provide lots of small grants to social enterprises, charitable, voluntary and community organisations to fund projects that improve health, provide economic opportunity, support the local environment, and celebrate local talent.

In April, £42,578 was allocated to support 20 projects that will benefit more than 2,500 people throughout the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

One of the projects chosen for a grant is the 25th anniversary celebration of the London Calypso Tent, an annual platform for singers and performers of calypso music, taking place at the Tabernacle Arts Centre. Speaking to our team



"We wanted to make it easier for newer and less established festivals to apply for funding," says Angela McConville

about the importance of the tent to the area, Vincent John, chairman of the Association of Calypsonians UK, said: "Calypso is an important part of the heritage of North Kensington and the London Calypso Tent is integral to passing the art form from generation to generation in our diverse community."

The final round of awards was made to enable local people to be more active, and to support talented young sports people to reach their potential.

Westway Sports Bursaries are grants of up to £500 to people of any age who want to take part in sports and fitness activities but find it hard to cover the costs.

Among those receiving bursaries was Martin, a 45 year-old Irish traveller, who lives on a site adjacent to the sports centre and visits the gym five days a week.

He told us that exercising has dramatically improved his mental health and encouraged him to get out of his home more regularly.

In addition to the bursaries, the Tim Davis Scholarships are a fund of up to £5,000 for young people of outstanding sporting talent who need financial support to reach their full

potential.

One of this year's recipients is future tennis star Manray Davis who has already won a number of competitions.

His coaches have put together a strength and conditioning plan to continue his improvement in the coming year which will make use of the new fitness suite added as part of the improvement works currently taking place at Westway Sports Centre.

All 13 people who received a sporting grant will also receive free membership to the fitness suite from Everyone Active, our sports operating partner.

Grant funding is just one of the ways that the Westway estate can support the local community.

But the diversity of groups and individuals we are able to support, scattered throughout the borough, is one way of making sure that the benefits of this wonderful community asset are able to reach beyond the physical site itself. All these funds will reopen for new applications in the coming months.

I encourage anyone who thinks they might benefit to visit our website at westway.org/

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## 1,000 years of history...

PARLIAMENT will take part in the first ever London History Day this month with a series of events on the theme "1,000 years of history... where history is still being written".

On Wednesday May 31, visitors will have the chance to attend a free talk about the Elizabeth Tower by one of the clockmakers. Families visiting with children can take one of the London History themed family guided tours around Parliament.

To mark the launch of the first ever London History Day, Londoners were invited to take part in a YouGov poll about the capital. The Houses of Parliament was voted the place that best sums up London and May 31 was chosen to be the first ever London History Day date as it is the date that Big Ben started keeping time in 1859.

Bookings for the Elizabeth Tower talk are being taken now. Places are limited and the free tickets must be booked in advance by calling 020 7219 4114 (lines open Mondays to Saturdays, 9am to 5pm).

The Elizabeth Tower talk will commence promptly at 10am in the Jubilee Room just off medieval Westminster Hall. Ticket holders are welcome to enter from 9.30am and should allow sufficient time to pass through the airport-style security.

The special London history-themed family guided tours at 10.40am, 1.30pm and 3pm include the Commons Chamber, Lords Chamber, Central Lobby, St Stephen's Hall and Westminster Hall. Regular audio tours and guided tours are also available throughout the day.

Tour tickets can be purchased online, by calling 020 7219 4114 or in person from the ticket office at the front of Portcullis House on Victoria Embankment.

A wider audience can have a behind-the-scenes look at rarely seen London-themed objects in Parliament's Heritage Collections on social media throughout the day. Follow @UKParlArchives on Twitter and UK Parliamentary Archives on Facebook to discover some #LondonHistoryDay treasures.

Objects which will be highlighted include the ceremonial silver trowel used to lay the first stone of the Elizabeth Tower and photographs of the damage caused by air raids on the Houses of Parliament during the Blitz.

The Parliamentary Archives provides access to the archives of the House of Lords, the House of Commons and to other records relating to Parliament.

London History Day is a Historic England initiative. It forms part of Historic England's new campaign Keep It London. The aim of the campaign is to encourage the public to notice, celebrate and speak up for the London's heritage.

For Historic England's first ever London History Day on Wednesday 31 May, more than 40 of the city's museums and galleries will stage special events and rare displays for one day only.

From the treasures of the Thames to the document which granted London its rights and freedoms, family workshops to walking tours and talks, enjoy delving into London's diverse history.



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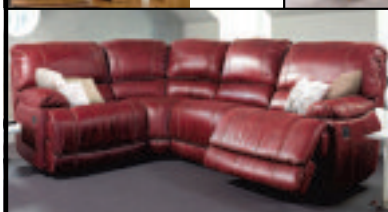


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# Orangery basement battle

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

RESIDENTS living near Kensington Palace have slammed proposals to develop a £24million 'super-basement' with some claiming the planners have been "bedazzled by courtiers".

Plans have been submitted to a build 50-metre long, two-storey deep basement next to the Grade I listed Queen Anne's Orangery of Kensington Palace.

It is to accommodate staff at the palace who will have to make way for the return of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

But the plans have caused outrage among some locals because, under RBKC's planning regulations, applicants aren't allowed to build double storey basements.

However, it is understood planning officials will consider making an exception on this occasion due to the size and importance of site.

The work is also unlikely to disturb the daily lives of those living in the immediate vicinity.

This has angered residents in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the capital's wealthiest borough, where the average home costs more than £1.4 million.

Donald Cameron has called it a "thoroughly shoddy episode".

Retired telecoms executive Donald, 65, said: "This is an historic building and should not be disturbed.

"There can be no justification for a double basement. The Orangery is a central feature of the park which should be maintained as a peaceful facility for Londoners.

"The consultation is bogus and the planning department seems to have been bedazzled by courtiers when giving pre-application advice."

Other residents have written to the council to share their concerns about plans at the Orangery, which was built between 1704 and 1705, on the commission of Queen Anne.

Patrick Hope-Falkner said: "Is everyone cowed by the involvement of a Royal Palace? No one is above the law. And the law in RBKC is subject to CL7 and the latest SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) on basements.

"Only if the planning department and local planning authority want to drive a coach and horses through their own regulations and guidelines, should this application be allowed to go any



Donald Cameron is one of a number of people who have written to the council to object to plans that have been submitted to a build 50-metre long, two-storey deep basement next to the Grade I listed Queen Anne's Orangery of Kensington Palace

chitectural, historical and political significance.

"It is very much hoped that other arrangement will be made for the proposed uses for a new basement on this site."

Residents have also raised issues about potential damage to trees and wildlife which would be removed as part of the proposals.

Official plans for the Orangery's mega-basement were submitted to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea by Historic Royal Palaces last month.

The proposed development will include one level above ground and two subterranean levels. It will house palace staff, a kitchen to support the orangery restaurant and an area to store ceremonial dresses.

Andrew Langton, chairman of the high-end London estate agency, Aylesford International, estimates the extension will cost around £24 million to build. The council has so far received 14 objection letters from locals and four letters of support.

Support has come from lo-

cal bodies and organisations made up of The Science Museum, Exhibition Road Cultural Group, Friend of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, and the Royal Albert Hall.

Mr Cameron, who has used the park grounds for 35 years, also pointed out it is not the first time controversial plans for the palace get the go-ahead.

He added: "First it was the new cast iron awning for the Palace entrance which was vigorously opposed by architectural expert and Deputy Leader of the Borough, Cllr Daniel Moylan. He was steamrollered."

The cast iron awning, or loggia, he referred to was designed by John Simpson, a favourite architect of Prince Charles, who was behind the village of Poundbury in Dorset.

It was described as "twee" by Cllr Moylan who added it was akin to "something from a garden furniture catalogue". The loggia was eventually approved in 2011 by the planning inspectorate following an appeal.

Historic Royal Palaces defended the proposed basement, which it says will be funded by donations and charity rather than the taxpayer.

A statement said: "Our plans have been very carefully considered and developed in consultation with stakeholders including the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Historic England. As a conservation charity, our priority is to ensure that the new building is sympathetically designed to respect the Grade I Listed Orangery and its historic setting. It will comprise two storeys below ground to provide the facilities required, with just a single storey above ground, thus protecting views of the 18th century Orangery and its surrounding landscape. The Orangery is not in a residential neighbourhood and the completed development will not affect other properties in the area."

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea said that it didn't comment on undecided planning applications.

## Marathon will help overcome teenage cancer

AFTER event director Hugh Brasher hailed the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon as "the greatest ever" in the history of the race, organisers have named the Teenage Cancer Trust as the Virgin Money London Marathon Charity of the Year for 2018.

The 'Be a Legend' themed partnership will see the charity mobilise a team of legendary supporters to run or volunteer for Teenage Cancer Trust in the 2018 Virgin Money London Marathon, and aims to raise £1.5m for young people with cancer across the UK.

Currently, for every young person aged 13-24 Teenage Cancer Trust supports, there's another they can't. But the charity has an ambitious plan for a revolutionary outreach programme that will ensure specialist nurses can reach young people with cancer no matter where they live, be that in their local hospital or even in their homes.

The partnership will play a significant role in helping the charity reach its target of supporting every young person with cancer by 2020.

Russell Brand, comedy legend and long-time Teenage Cancer Trust supporter, is the face of the launch film which satirises the way we think about charity in the social media age. With tongue firmly in cheek, Russell encourages people to take part in the marathon for purely selfish reasons, so they can "look good whilst doing good".

Kate Collins, Director of Fundraising and Marketing, at Teenage Cancer Trust, said: "We're delighted to be launching our important partnership with the Virgin Money London Marathon with a film that has a cheeky tone but a serious message. Huge thanks to Chris, a young man who is currently going through treatment for cancer, and our long-term supporter Russell Brand for teaming up to make the film.

"We need hundreds of people to 'Be a Legend' and run or volunteer for Teenage Cancer Trust in the 2018 Virgin Money London Marathon, so we can make sure that no young person faces cancer alone.

"Every penny raised will make our vital work possible - and we can't wait to see legends from across the UK gather in support of young people with cancer in the 2018 Virgin Money London Marathon."

Hugh Brasher, Event Director for Virgin Money London Marathon, said: "Teenage Cancer Trust is an amazing charity and we're very excited to partner with them for the 2018 Virgin Money London Marathon. Their team of legends will bring the party to marathon day and help raise much needed funds so that more young people with cancer can access their expert support."

Jo Barnett, Executive Director of Virgin Money Giving, said: "We've seen the incredible support that Teenage Cancer Trust offers to young people and their families, and we believe that every young person with cancer deserves this kind of care. Virgin Money is proud to partner with this charity and help them take one step closer to their goal of reaching every young person with cancer who needs them."

## Queen's greenhouse to protect beloved citrus trees

AT Kensington Palace in 1704, Queen Anne had an elaborate greenhouse built in the style of an elegant palace to protect her citrus trees from the harsh frosts of winter.

She also recognised that The Orangery's beautiful garden setting and graceful architecture made it a perfect venue for fashionable court

entertaining away from the hubbub of Whitehall.

It was at this time that the notion of dining etiquette evolved. In the late 17th century, nobles suffering from ennui in the royal courts of France devised complex social customs to amuse themselves and gradually they made their way to English high society. As the 18th cen-

tury rolled on, protocol began to rule every action at the dining table.

Table ornamentation flourished, with grand candlesticks and grandiose flower arrangements decorating the tables. Tableware became something of an obsession and if a new tool could be invented for a task, it would be commissioned. At dinner, a

formal gathering might sit down to as many as nine wine glasses and a dazzling array of silverware including everything from stilton spoons to oyster prongs and butter spades.

Prior to the introduction of high tea into Britain, the English had two main meals: breakfast and dinner. By the middle of the eighteenth cen-

tury, dinner for the upper and middle classes had shifted from noon to an evening meal served at a fashionably late hour. This didn't suit the Duchess of Bedford, Anna Maria Stanhope (1783-1857).

When The Orangery was built, meals for the upper classes were still very carnivorous affairs.

# Jet-set foodies prefer plane food

BY LWN REPORTER  
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THIS is the moment foodies tucked into a fine dining experience – a trendy pop-up restaurant serving only air-line food.

The temporary eaterie in London's Soho opened last week after it was revealed a quarter of Brits think air-plane food is worse than school dinners and hospital food.

While a fifth of people believe bad cuisine is the worst thing about flying long-haul and over half don't like the food served on planes.

The menu on offer at the pop-up, This Is How We Fly, was devised by Kiwi chef and restaurateur Peter Gordon to show off the freshness of Air New Zealand's on-board fare.

The airline opened the temporary restaurant and also commissioned the research of 1,000 UK adults who have flown long haul.

Peter Gordon said: "When you're sitting on an airplane you want food with fresh ingredients and great texture that's going to awaken your taste buds and really excite you."

"The food served on board Air New Zealand uses the finest, fresh ingredients that are simply bursting with flavour."

Nearly half of British flyers said they would enjoy airline food if it was made from fresh ingredients, while almost a quarter would like to see a range of cuisines offered.

And around a fifth said that a menu put together by a top chef would make airplane food more appealing.

Almost half of respondents believe airline food cannot better restaurant quality.

The biggest gripes people have about airplane food are



A cabin crew member, left, with airline food about to be served to members of the public at a pop up event hosted by Air New Zealand, Soho. Above, diners get into their seats for the latest culinary treat to reach the capital

## LONG-HAUL HASSLES

- 1 Uncomfortable seating
- 2 Lack of space
- 3 Annoying passengers
- 4 Not enough leg room
- 5 Not being able to sleep
- 6 Boredom
- 7 = Crying children; the duration of the flight
- 8 Sitting next to someone you don't want to
- 9 Queues for toilets
- 10 Bad food

its unappetising look, the freshness of the food and the portion sizes.

Jo Copestake, Air New Zealand General Manager UK and Europe, said: "At Air New Zealand we make a virtue of

flying long-haul so serving great food is just one element of the in-flight experience.

"The research findings are interesting but I suspect they just haven't travelled with us – flying should be enjoyed, not endured!"

When asked for their views on the food, one member of the public said: "I couldn't believe it – the food was delicious and probably on par with what I would pay for in a restaurant."

"I had the lamb with minted peas, braised lettuce with bacon lardons and salt roasted crushed new potatoes with mint jelly – it was really good."

Another said: "I'm always interested in trying new foods and Soho is really good for that. In all honesty I never thought airplane food could be so nice."

Air New Zealand's This Is How We Fly ran from Tuesday 25th April to Wednesday 26th April at Unit London Gallery, 147 Wardour Street, London, W1F 8WD.

Jo Copestake, Air New Zealand General Manager UK and Europe, said: "People had a chance to sample Air New Zealand canapes, created with the finest, freshest ingredients. They were also able to sample some of the best wines from New Zealand courtesy of winery Villa Maria and discover Auckland via LA in an immersive 4D experience."

## Film worker's tragic death

BY LWN REPORTER  
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A RESPECTED film locations manager who worked on the Harry Potter and Pirates of the Caribbean movies took his own life at a five star hotel while battling depression, an inquest heard.

Michael Harm, 51, was found dead in the bath in a suite at the plush Landmark Hotel in Marylebone, central London, the hearing was told.

Mr Harm had posted a suicide note to his partner, Vishal Raghuvanshi, at their home the day before, the inquest heard.

Mr Raghuvanshi called the police who carried out a welfare check at the hotel just after 3pm on January 19 this year, Westminster Coroners Court was told. Mr Harm's body was found in the bathroom with a ligature around his neck and cuts to his wrists. He was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

Mr Harm, who was born in the Netherlands, came to the

UK in the early 90s and worked on several well known films including *Elizabeth*, *Notting Hill* and *Dirty Pretty Things*. He worked as a location manager for the Harry Potter franchise and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* before working with Brad Pitt on zombie movie *World War Z*.

Coroner's Officer Stephen Earl said Mr Harm was described by friends as "the kindest, most considerate, loving and loyal person you could meet."

Mr Earl added: "On January 19, his partner received a letter from him saying he was at the hotel at the time and that he intended to take his own life."

"His partner notified the police who attended the hotel to conduct a welfare check."

"They entered the room and the police found him in the bath with a ligature round his neck tied to a handle above the bath and he had cuts to his wrist."

Coroner Dr William Dolman said he had seen medical re-

ports from Mr Harms physicians which "talked about his illness, including depression and suicidal risk".

The Coroner said in order to reach a conclusion of suicide he must be sure that the deceased undertook the act to himself knowing the consequences and that there was evidence of self harm.

He said: "Firstly there is no evidence there was a third party involved and he undertook the act himself."

"Second issue is intent and we have cogent evidence in the letter he wrote to his partner, causing him to raise the alarm and a number of other letters found at the hotel. He gave the cause of death as compression of the neck by ligature in his verdict he said: "I record a conclusion of suicide."

Following the news of his death earlier this year location manager Sue Quinn, who had worked with Mr Harm, said: "He was the most delightful, handsome, decent, creative person. He had a wicked sense of humour."

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Media production students at DLD College on Westminster Bridge Road

## Jodie inspires media students

CHANNEL 4 presenter, Jodie McCallum held an in-depth workshop with students from DLD College London to help improve their presenting skills.

The BTEC Media Production students benefited from a full day working alongside industry professional Jodie, who is giving up her time to work with them on an ongoing project which will culminate in a live broadcast at the end of the academic year.

The students from the Westminster Bridge-based college are creating an entertainment programme based around music. It will incorporate a music video, studio pieces to camera and interviews, as a way of demonstrating their multi-camera skills. Jodie will also revisit the college to do a piece to camera for the project and offer any final words of advice before the piece is complete.

During the workshop, Jodie

explained her background, having come through the 4Talent scheme, she has now come full circle and works with the team to hold presenting workshops for future hopefuls.

She gave an insight into inspirations, how she likes to present, what it is like working in a studio and following her recent appointment on ITV's Good Morning Britain - what it is like working with Piers Morgan.

Jodie focussed on the importance of script writing with the students and opened their eyes to the complexity of the skill. They practised with a script she kindly prepared before presenting to camera and the group was then tasked with writing their own.

The practical workshop continued with Jodie teaching the students how to use autocue, she worked with them on interview and presentation techniques as well as offering

advice for breaking into the industry in a variety of capacities such as production.

BTEC Media teacher, John Branney, organised the workshop. He commented: "Jodie was incredible and it is great that she wants to continue helping the students with this project. It's fantastic that the group was given the opportunity to meet an industry professional and learn from her."

"It is wonderful as a teacher to see how the students have grown in the past couple of months and how they got involved in the workshop rather than just watching it. We are so grateful for Jodie's input and I'm very excited to see the finished product in June."

In September 2015, DLD College London relocated to brand new, purpose-built premises in the heart of London, on 199 Westminster Bridge Road, overlooking Westminster and the River Thames.

# Mayor swears in 32 new British citizens

BY LWN REPORTER  
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, hosted his first Mayor's Citizenship Ceremony, where 32 new British citizens - one for every London borough - swore their affirmation of allegiance to Queen and country in front of friends and family at City Hall.

At the ceremony he launched a ground-breaking new citizenship initiative, the first of its kind in the UK, to help Londoners become more engaged in the life of the capital. The programme will tackle social integration, including helping new migrants find a path to citizenship and getting existing London citizens more involved in democracy and the decisions that affect them, with 150,000 Londoners dropping off the electoral register since 2012.

As part of his plans to improve social integration in the capital, the Mayor has announced the new initiative which is the result of a partnership with independent charitable funders, Trust for London and Unbound Philanthropy.

Aimed at tackling some of the main barriers preventing all Londoners from getting fully involved in their communities, the partnership will help people to access their citizenship and residency rights, increase civic engagement and celebrate diversity and shared identities across the capital.

The capital's population is rapidly growing and changing - around 50 per cent of people moving to London are from abroad, with the remaining 50 per cent from other UK regions. The Mayor has already made the case for the rights of EU citizens to be protected following the triggering of Article 50, and an integral part of these plans will be to support the take up of British citizenship by Londoners from the EU and abroad.

Whilst 640,000 Londoners became British citizens in the past 11 years, 54 per cent

of Londoners born abroad don't hold a British passport. There are also thousands of young Londoners who have grown up in the capital but cannot access higher education or work because they have irregular migration status - as Londoners, they want to contribute more to and fully engage with our society.

The initiative is not limited to those who have migrated to London. It is an integral part of a much broader drive by the Mayor for all Londoners to be more involved in their city, become active citizens and live interconnected lives.

The collaboration will see experts from Migrants Organise, Citizens UK, Coram Children's Legal Centre and Just for Kids Law seconded to City Hall to help shape the Mayor's plans, and work towards the shared goal of making London a truly socially integrated city. This model is inspired by similar initiatives in the USA, but it is the first time it has been delivered here.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: "I was very proud to meet 32 new British citizens at City Hall this morning and hear about their lives in our great city and what it means to them to be a Londoner."

"London is one of the world's most diverse and vibrant cities, but improving social integration is still one of the biggest challenges we face. Building more cohesive communities across the capital is a top priority for me as Mayor because greater integration will lead to a safer, healthier and more prosperous London. We all benefit when people are given the help they need to contribute fully to society and to their local communities."

Bharat Mehta CBE, Chief Executive of Trust for London, said: "As Londoners, we have lots to be proud of. One of our greatest strengths is that our capital is a place where millions of people from different walks of life rub along well together."

"This is something pre-

cious that we cannot take for granted. However, protecting it and bringing along those Londoners who currently feel left out, is a big job."

This initiative is one of the first steps in the Mayor's wider work to help all Londoners feel integrated into life in the city. His Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, is working with grassroots community organisations across the capital to identify the key barriers to community cohesion and integration. Matthew is also working with local government, voluntary and community sector organisations and communities themselves to develop a strategy, including new ways of measuring social integration.

Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, said: "Social integration is not just about bringing certain communities together. It is about every single Londoner feeling like they belong in this city, have a shared set of values with other Londoners, and a role to play in the everyday life of the capital."

"This initiative very much sets the tone of our work around social integration - working in partnership with communities and civil society to bring real change to the lives of Londoners, and I am very much looking forward to working with Trust for London on this ground-breaking project."

Citizens UK deputy director and Lead Organiser for London Citizens, Matthew Bolton said: "London's diversity is one of its greatest strengths and as London Citizens we are delighted to join the Mayor in this exciting new initiative to promote citizenship and integration in the capital. Some communities face real barriers to playing their full role economically and politically and we are committed to breaking down those barriers, particularly helping young Londoners find a route to citizenship."

## New chemo pill causes depression

A CHEMOTHERAPY pill for malignant brain tumours may increase the risk of depression because it stops new brain cells from growing, a new study conducted by boffins in London has found.

Brain cancer patients are prescribed Temozolomide sold under the brand name Temodal along with radiotherapy. It is taken orally and cannot cure a brain tumour, but may extend survival and improve the quality of life of the patient.

It works by stopping cancer cells from making new DNA so they cannot divide and split into two new cancer cells. But disrupting this process can have potential side effects related to cell division, such as hair loss.

A new study by King's College London researchers found the drug may similarly stop the growth of new brain cells called neurogenesis.

The drug significantly reduced the growth of new brain cells in the hippocampus - a region associated with emotion and memory. And the more the drug decreased neurogenesis, the greater the increase in stress hormones when exposed to stress.

The findings were the first to suggest that chemotherapy causes behavioural and biological brain changes related to depression that are separate from the psychological distress resulting from a cancer diagnosis.

Depression is common

among brain cancer patients with scientist unsure whether chemo causes it or it is a result of the stress of having cancer itself.

Around 5,000 people are diagnosed with a primary malignant brain tumour in the UK each year and many more get it after cancers have spread.

Studies found three in ten patients suffer depression but it is highly under-diagnosed with some suggesting rates are as high as nine in ten.

The new study showed mice given the drug changed their behaviour related to depression, including robust deficits in novelty processing and a decrease in preference for a rewarding sugar solution.

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# Talk of the town



## The making of a monster

**S**OHO Theatre will play host to what's being pitched as a monstrous show constructed by a thoughtful idiot.

John-Luke Roberts Builds A Monster is a critically acclaimed comedy show from the co-creator of fringe hit Alternative Comedy Memorial Society and co-writer of UKTV Gold sitcom Bull (starring Robert Lyndsay and Maureen Lipman).

Following in the fine tradition of comedy horror, this is probably the only show to be hosted by a figment from an anxiety dream that's a mix between John-Luke's father, a sort of vampire thing, and anything else it may use its eerie dream-power to shapeshift into.

This truly innovative, absurdist show uses clowning to put our nightmares live on stage, and make them funny.

John-Luke Roberts is an actor, writer

and comedian. He has created four solo shows for the Edinburgh Fringe between 2010 and 2015 which have all been critically acclaimed with transfers to various London venues including two sold out runs at the Soho Theatre.

As an actor he has appeared in Channel 4's Babylon and hit BBC Radio 4 sitcom Welcome to Our Village, Please Invade Carefully.

Roberts has also written for wide range of TV and radio shows including Have I Got News For You, Nevermind the Buzzcocks and has co-written his first sitcom, Bull for UKTV Gold, with Gareth Gwynn.

John-Luke Roberts Builds A Monster will run at the Soho Theatre from May 9 to 13. You can find further details on the website [www.sohotheatre.com/whats-on/john-luke-roberts-builds-a-monster/](http://www.sohotheatre.com/whats-on/john-luke-roberts-builds-a-monster/)

**T**HE star of West End magic marvels and big screen spectacles, Ali Cook, is to play his critically acclaimed comedy magic show *Principles of Deception* in London.

Treating audiences to a festival of fascination, *Principles of Deception* acts as the essential storytelling of magic, with Ali Cook's own brand of awe-inspiring feats and off-beat comedy.

Taking its name from Arthur Buckley's seminal magic compendium *Principles and Deceptions* - the first book to categorise every magic trick - the show demonstrates Ali Cook's skill as an historian of deception.

In a masterclass of technique across a range of magic disciplines, Cook defies the illusionist norm by showcasing a plethora of astonishments for audiences. Featuring close up magic, mind reading, deception, sleight of hand, escapology and many more styles, *Principles of Deception* is an evening of magical re-invention.

Cook's renown in the alternative comedy and magic worlds has led him to star in the West End illusion spectacular *Impossible*, as well as television magic specials including Penn & Teller: Fool Us, Dirty Tricks, Secret World of Magic and Now You See It.

In addition to his comedy and illusion work, he has also undertaken television acting roles in *Emmerdale* and *Mr Selfridge*, as well as film roles.

He is also to co-star in the upcoming political comedy *How To Sell A War* with Sharon Horgan.



Ali Cook

**Nicky Sweetland**  
previews two acts  
from the Southbank  
**UNDERBELLY**  
**FESTIVAL**

*Principles of Deception* became Cook's third sold-out show at the Edinburgh Festival in 2011. The performance won him critical acclaim, and firmly established him as a leading proponent of the alternative magic scene.

Ali Cook will perform his *Principles of Deception* show at Underbelly Festival Southbank on May 27.

You can visit the website for more details [underbellyfestival.com](http://underbellyfestival.com)



Gina Yashere

**U**NDERBELLY Festival will once again see some of the best comedians flocking to the capital and joining this year's line-up will be international stand-up sensation Gina Yashere.

Back in a rare UK appearance, the multi-award winning Londoner returns to her roots after a couple of years travelling the globe and has some hilarious tales to tell.

The newly minted British correspondent for Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* with Trevor Noah has also appeared on *The Tonight Show* with Conan O'Brien, *The Jay Leno Show*, NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, *Mock the Week*, *Celebrity Fame Academy*, *Don't Sit in the Front Row*, *Celebrity Come Dine With*

Me, ITV's *Married Single Other* and recently hosted BBC's *Live at the Apollo*. She has also had her own one hour stand up special on Showtime, appeared on the big screen in *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* and *Mr In Between*, and has starred in the West-End in *The Vagina Monologues*.

Yashere's recent UK performances have seen sell-out shows at the Brixton Academy and Just For Laughs London and her latest show *Ticking Boxes* is currently streaming in the US on Seeso TV.

Gina Yashere will be performing at Underbelly Festival from June 23 to 25.

[www.ginayashere.com](http://www.ginayashere.com)

# Talk of the town

**K**ENNETH Grahame's classic novel *The Wind In The Willows* has been enjoyed by thousands of children all over the world. And now a new stage musical version at the London Palladium is set to bring the riverbank characters to life.

The spectacular stage show received critical acclaim following its pre-West End tour. And with a book by Julian Fellowes and songs by the revered partnership of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, it promises to be a popular ticket with London theatregoers this summer.

The producers have also gathered an all-star cast to portray the famed woodland creatures with Rufus Hound as Toad, Denise Welch as Mrs Otter, Gary Wilmot as Badger, Simon Lipkin as Rat and former soap opera star Neil McDermott as Chief Weasel.

Neil is best known for playing Ryan Malloy in *EastEnders* – but he is no stranger to the West End and previously appeared at the Palladium in the revival of *The Sound Of Music*.

He also became a favourite with musical theatre fans when he played Lord Farquaad in the musical version of *Shrek* at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

This time, the versatile actor is taking on the role of the mischievous Chief Weasel, a punk rock star villain who is loosely based on the Sex Pistols frontman Johnny Rotten.

Neil said: "We thought the punk style was most suited to a baddie who's causing lots of trouble."

*The Wind In The Willows* tells the story of Mole (played by Craig Mather) on the first day of spring.

The beloved burrowing mammal introduces us to all of his colourful friends including the outrageous Mr Toad, whose need for speed gets the group into an abundance of scrapes.

"Toad's always looking for the fastest vehicle he can find, from boats to cars and planes, and he gets them all into trouble and then ends up in jail," Neil tells me.

Whilst the amphibious hero is in the clink, a gang takes over his beloved Toad Hall, led by Neil's charismatic Chief Weasel, which he describes as "mental".

Neil said: "When you play an animal the rules are much wider and broader. You can do things you wouldn't do if you were playing a human, so he can be as erratic as a weasel is."

Neil extensively studied wild weasels before forming the characterisation.

He said: "I thought their movements were quite schizophrenic; one minute they're going one way and the next minute they're going another way."

"They're always on the move, so I knew I wanted to create something that was quite anarchic in many ways. He's someone that changes his mind and moves a lot which is great for comedy."

First published in 1908, *The Wind In The Willows* is known for being alternately slow moving and fast paced.

The novel is notable for its mixture of mysticism and adventure and celebrated for its fairytale-like depiction of the nature of the Thames Valley.

In 1908, writer Kenneth Grahame retired from his position as secretary of the Bank of England and moved back to Berkshire where



Neil McDermott and the company of  
*The Wind In The Willows*  
Picture: Marc Brenner, Jamie Hendry Productions

Nicky  
Sweetland  
talks with  
Neil McDermott,  
star of  
THE WIND IN  
THE WILLOWS

he had lived as a child, and spent his time by the River Thames doing much as the animal characters in his book do – as the book says, "simply messing about in boats" – and expanding the bedtime stories he had earlier told his son Alastair into a manuscript for the book.

The novel was in its 31st printing when playwright AA Milne adapted part of it for the stage as *Toad Of Toad Hall* in 1929.

Now, almost a century later, it has been adapted again by Julian Fellowes, who's already scored success in the West End with his stage versions of *School Of Rock* – in collaboration with Andrew Lloyd Webber – and *Half A Sixpence* with George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.

*The Wind In The Willows* is quintessentially British, with echoes of the Edwardian era and a simpler existence.

But Neil assured me there is something for everyone.

He said: "It's a fantastic new musical for all generations. It's funny, it's beautiful, the set and the costumes are truly amazing and it's a lot of fun."

*The Wind In The Willows* begins previews at the London Palladium on June 16. For more information, visit [windinthewillows.themusical.com/booking-info](http://windinthewillows.themusical.com/booking-info).

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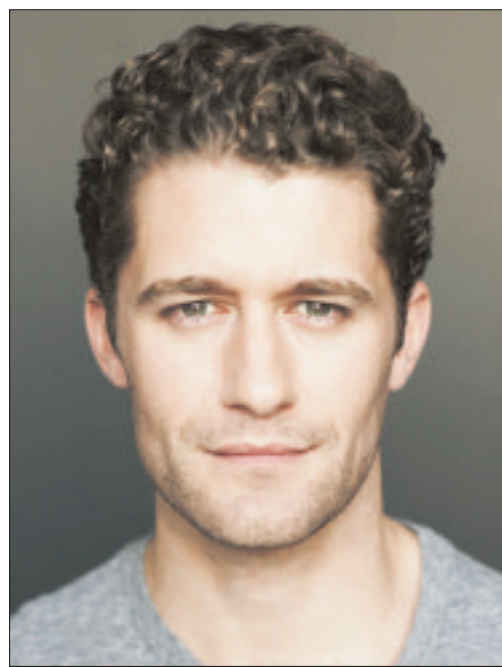
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# Talk of the town



Glee forever - Matthew Morrison

**S**TAR of the world-wide hit series *Glee* and Broadway regular, Matthew Morrison, will take to the stage at the Hippodrome Casino next month for what is expected to be a hugely popular two-night residency.

Production company, Club 11 London are fast gaining a reputation for bringing the biggest musical theatre stars to the Leicester Square venue.

A top-flight jazz band will join Morrison, the versatile Tony, Emmy, and Golden-Globe nominated actor/singer, as he performs an evening of standards and favourites.

An artist who *The New York Times* calls "a hard-driving musical frontiersman", Morrison will take the audience through a career retrospective as he performs selections from his past productions, including *Glee*, *Hairspray*, *Finding Neverland*, *South Pacific*, *Light In The Piazza* and more.

Matthew said: "London holds a very special place in my heart. It's a city I love exploring and drawing inspiration from. There's a sense of nostalgia and longing that this city brings to me, and a lot of the music I'll be performing holds that same sentiment. To perform at such a place as the Hippodrome,

where greats like Sinatra and Judy Garland graced the stage, is truly a career highlight that I look forward to sharing with those in attendance".

Morrison most recently starred as "J.M Barrie" in the Harvey Weinstein musical "Finding Neverland". In 2015, Morrison wrapped the final season of Fox's musical comedy series "Glee," where he starred as the director of the glee club, Mr Schuester.

In June, 2013, Morrison released his latest studio album, "Where It All Began".

Club 11 London producers, Darren Bell and Marc McBride said: "We are thrilled to keep on bringing the best and exciting stars from Broadway to perform at the iconic Hippodrome Theatre. When we started our journey producing at the Hippodrome, Matthew Morrison was always in our wish list of Broadway stars, and after a very successful two years we are thrilled that we are now bringing this to fruition".

Matthew Morrison will be at the Hippodrome Casino for three intimate concerts at 8pm and 11pm on Tuesday May 16t and 11pm on Wednesday May 17.

*Futher details*  
[www.club11.london/mattm](http://www.club11.london/mattm)

**P**AM Ann is celebrating her 20th year in showbusiness and the queen of the sky is currently enjoying another popular residency at the Leicester Square Theatre, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Caroline Reid's irreverent airhostess alter ego serves up another huge helping of impudent humour and smut, while her legions of devoted fans cheer and chortle in response.

The latest debacle with United Airlines forcibly removing a passenger has given this filthy femme even more fuel and although the material is unsophisticated, with all of the classic airline stereotypes played upon, the show is performed well enough for the simplicity of the comedy not to matter too much.

There's even a bit of audience interaction when a gaggle of unsuspecting guests are gathered on stage to reenact one of the Spice Girls' biggest hits and the quick-witted hostess shows her stand up credentials as she improvises harsh put-downs.

The real highlight however, is the cleverly devised film clip, in which we see Pam Ann taking over from Mary Berry in the Great British Bake Off tent. There's a lot of talk of soggy bottoms and some great use of baking innuendos to give a

gloriously grisly alternative to innocence of the television show.

Bawdy, bold and brash, this is not a show for those who are easily offended, but it is a thoroughly good night out.

THE  
BAWDY  
HOSTESS  
IS BACK  
Nicky  
Sweetland



*Pam Ann: Touch Trolley Run to Galley - 20th Anniversary Tour continues at the Leicester Square Theatre until May 27 - <https://leicestersquaretheatre.ticketsolve.com/shows/873556409>*



**F**OLLOWING an acclaimed sold-out UK premiere at Southwark Playhouse the monstrous musical *The Toxic Avenger* will transfer to the West End.

The bizarre love story with an environmental twist by the writers of the West End hit *Memphis* is to transfer to the Arts Theatre for a limited season.

Prior to the London season, the production will have a month-long run at the Edinburgh Fringe - full details to be announced soon.

Based on Lloyd Kaufman's cult 1984 comedy schlock-horror, *The Toxic Avenger - The Musical* tells the story of the citizens of Tromaville, who are crying out for a hero... enter nerdy Melvin Ferd the Third, an aspiring earth scientist, determined to clean up the state's major toxic waste problem.

When a corrupt Mayor and her government goons get wind of his plans Melvin is attacked and tossed into a vat of toxic waste, transforming him instantly into *The Toxic Avenger*, New Jersey's first superhero!

Toxie is a seven-foot mutant freak with super-human strength and a supersized heart to match. He's out to save heavily polluted New Jersey, end global warming, win the heart of the prettiest (blindest) librarian in town and get home in time for dinner!

Prepare to laugh, scream and sing to songs including *Who Will Save New Jersey?* *Get the Geek Thank God She's Blind*, *Hot Toxic Love* and *Choose Me, Oprah!* as Toxie rocks the house and saves the day!

*The Toxic Avenger - The Musical* will open at the Arts Theatre on September 28.  
<https://artstheatrewestend.co.uk>

# Talk of the town

**L**ONDON Theatre Company has announced the first productions at its new Bridge Theatre, on the River Thames by Tower Bridge and City Hall. The theatre opens on October 26 – previews from October 18 – with a new comedy, *Young Marx*, by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman, directed by Nicholas Hytner and with Rory Kinnear in the title role.

This is followed in January by *Julius Caesar*, staged in promenade by Nicholas Hytner, with Ben Whishaw as Brutus. Then in April comes a new play, *Nightfall*, by rising playwright and novelist Barney Norris, directed by Laurie Sansom.

Tickets for these three productions are now on sale, priced from £15 to £65 with a limited number of premium seats available.

From summer 2018, productions will include a new play by Lucinda Coxon based on the novel *Alys*, Always by Harriet Lane; a new play by Nina Raine about JS Bach, played by Simon Russell Beale; *Flatpack*, a new play by John Hodge; *The Black Cloud*, a new play by Sam Holcroft from the novel by Fred Hoyle; and *Carmen Havana*, a version of Bizet's opera by Lucy Prebble with choreography by Miguel Altunaga and directed by Nicholas Hytner.

London Theatre Company, which was founded by Nicholas Hytner and Nick Starr on leaving the National Theatre after 12 years, will focus on the commissioning and production of new shows, as well as staging the occasional classic.

At The Bridge, it will present four or five new productions year-round, playing Tuesday to Sunday, plus a Monday night programme which will include intimate gigs, the live recording of a new podcast series and conversations on food, fashion, politics and science.

Backed by a small group of senior Venture Capital investors, LTC's raison d'être is to create a culture, ethos and economic model that supports writers, directors, designers

We think there's room for a new independent on the scene, driven by both a mission and a bottom line.

and actors to work in a space that is complementary to those of the subsidised theatre and West End. In time LTC hopes to open more theatres in London, to be able to host productions from the subsidised theatre, and to transfer its own productions to the West End and beyond.

LTC commissioned the new theatre from architect Steve Tompkins. He and his colleague Roger Watts at Haworth Tompkins have designed a 900-seat adaptable auditorium that can respond to shows with different formats.

The Bridge is the first wholly new theatre of scale to be added to London's commercial theatre sector in 80 years, and the first to be built outside the historic West End. It has a stunning riverside location at the foot of Tower Bridge next to City Hall and is a few minutes' walk from London Bridge station, where the new concourse opens onto Tooley Street in spring next year. The Bridge is situated in Berkeley Homes' One Tower Bridge development amongst ten new restaurants.

Nicholas Hytner said: "We want to make bold popular theatre. We've commissioned ambitious plays that reach out to embrace the audience, and we've built an environment for them that is exciting, welcoming and flexible: a theatre that can be changed to suit the show. We reckon that London needs new theatres, designed for the shows that people make in the 21st century and the expectations that audiences have for a really good night out."

Nick Starr said: "After the National Theatre, it was time for something new and scary. London is a brilliant city for making and seeing theatre, evidenced by the 25 per cent increase in audiences over the last 15 years. We think there's room for a new independent on the scene, driven by both a mission and a bottom line. We hope that will resonate with artists and audiences, and we are hugely looking forward to welcoming them to The Bridge."

Further details can be found on the website [boxoffice@bridgetheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@bridgetheatre.co.uk)

Nick Starr, left, and Nicholas Hytner at the site of their new Bridge Theatre by Tower Bridge



## The audience must decide

THE Lyric Hammersmith has announced full casting for an intriguing production in which audiences decide the destiny of the leading character.

Entitled *Terror*, audiences are invited to enter the courtroom, hear the evidence and make their judgment.

A hijacked plane is heading towards a packed football stadium. Ignoring orders to the contrary a fighter pilot shoots the plane down, killing 164 people to save 70,000. Put on trial and charged with murder, the fate of the pilot is in the audience's hands. Guilty or not guilty? You decide.

Directed by artistic director Sean Holmes and designed by Olivier Award-winner Anna Fleischle the play will feature Emma Fielding as prosecuting



counsel, John Lightbody as Christian Lauterbach, Forbes Masson as defence counsel, Tanya Moodie as the presiding judge, Shanaya Rafaat as Franziska Meiser and Ashley Zhangazha as the pilot on trial, Lars Koch.

A worldwide phenomenon,

the play has been stirring debate and providing opposing results in different countries and cultures across the globe.

*Terror* will run at the Lyric Hammersmith from June 14 until July 15.

For more information visit [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

**Hysteria**  
by Terry Johnson

Thu 27 - Sat 29 April  
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# Property

## Scandal of 31,000 empty council owned homes

THE latest research by hybrid estate agent, eMoov.co.uk, has found that across England, local councils are holding onto over 30,000 vacant residential properties, an average of 116 per council, despite the housing crisis currently gripping the nation.

Recent research by the Telegraph highlighted that there are 200,000+ empty homes across the UK and eMoov have highlighted the quantity owned by the very entities that are tasked with housing people and building new homes to meet expanding demand levels.

eMoov submitted 270 freedom of information requests to London, Metropolitan and District councils asking for the total number of vacant residential properties in their possession including, but not limited to, any council or social housing. So not just those let to council housing tenants, but everything of a residential nature owned by that council.

To provide a transparent analysis of the data, the research not only highlights the worst by the total volume of vacant housing stock but the worst in relation to the local population. More importantly, it also high-

lights the worst political party and the result is clear cut.

### The Worst by Volume

The worst council where stock levels of vacant properties are concerned is the Labour majority Wigan Metropolitan Council, with 3,374 vacant properties in their possession.

When taking into account the population size of each council when looking at the level of vacant properties, the top 10 remains largely the same although there is a reshuffle in the rankings.

Lewes District Council (1.33 per cent), a Conservative majority council, ranks as the worst with a population of 100,700 and 1,335 vacant properties.

The City of London Corporation and Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council are the only new additions to the top 10 worst when accounting for population, but the London Borough of Ealing and Southwark councils both rank as 12th and 13th by population as well as making the previous ten for volume.

### By Political Party

Despite holding a majority in just 82 councils to the Conservatives 156, Labour accounts for just over 75 per cent of the vacant properties across England (23,662) an average of 289 properties per a council area. When taking population figures into account, they are still the worst offenders by

### The Best of the Bunch

It is important to note that of the 270 councils, 107 (40 per cent) do not hold any vacant properties, 73 per cent of which are Conservative majority councils with Labour accounting for just 16 per cent of that number.

Founder and CEO of eMoov.co.uk, Russell Quirk, commented: "It's quite frankly scandalous that in the current market climate those in charge of addressing the severe housing shortage are actually sitting on a potential solution or at least part of it."

We've seen numerous plans and announcements by the Government to tackle the housing crisis and help the average UK homebuyer in previous years, all of which have amounted to little more than regurgitated rhetoric. It would seem that parties

across the entire political spectrum need to get their own house in order first and utilize the resources already at their fingertips, rather than investing in another failed housing initiative.

It is certainly a worrying sign for UK buyers when Labour, the party that is supposed to be the one for people, is by far the worst offender in hoarding vacant council-owned properties."

### No Response

Of the 270 councils, we failed to get an adequate response from 24. 15 never confirmed receipt of the FOI and so were given the benefit of the doubt. However, eight confirmed receipt of the original request, failed to reply within the allotted time frame and then failed to provide the information during a second round follow up mid-April.

In these instances, the latest Government data for vacant properties within the 'Local Authority Housing Statistics', released in March 2017, was used to ascertain a figure. Blacklist table of councils' who confirmed receipt of FOI, but failed to respond within the time frame.

### Property to Share



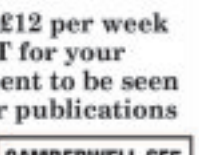
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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (AEGON TENNIS TOURNAMENT) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the Aegon Championships Championships, it made an Order the effect of which will prohibit vehicular traffic, suspend sections of parking bays, extend Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) D operational hours within part of the existing boundaries of CPZ D, and introduce a one way traffic flow system in sections of roads as listed in the articles to this notice.
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, between the north-western kerb line of Comeragh Road and its south-eastern extremity.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
- Whilst temporary works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed in order to facilitate the event build/breakdown works, the one-way traffic flow system which operates in Palliser Road between Margravine Gardens and Barton Road shall be suspended.
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, between its junctions with Comeragh Road and its junction with Barton Road other than in a northerly direction;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Comeragh Road between its junctions with Palliser Road and Gledstanes Road;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Perham Road between its junctions with St Andrews Road and its south-western extremity;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Gledstanes Road between its junctions with Perham Road and Fairholme Road;
- During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the waiting restrictions on both sides of the access road between Baron's Court Road and Comeragh Road adjacent to No. 2 Comeragh Road and in operation Monday - Friday 9am-5pm will be extended to be in operation 'At any time'.
- During the event or whilst works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the permitted hours of the existing Controlled Parking Zone D would be extended from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday to 9am to 7pm Monday to Sunday in Greyhound Road (from its junction with Star Road to its junction with Musard Road), Star Road (from its junction with St Andrew's Road to its junction with Vereker Road), Baron's Court Road, Barton Road, Palliser Road, Comeragh Road, Gledstanes Road, Vereker Road, Challoner Street, Castletown Road, Charleville Road, Fairholme Road, Perham Road, St Andrew's Road and Challoner Crescent.
- During the event or whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to stop, wait, load or unload in:-
 - Palliser Road, its south-western kerb line, from its southern extremity, northwards to the common boundary of Nos. 7 and 9 Palliser Road;
 - Palliser Road, its north-eastern kerb line, from its southern extremity, northwards to a point 12.00 metres north of its junction with the northern kerb line of Comeragh Road;
 - Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, from its junction with the north-eastern kerb line of Palliser Road, north-eastwards to its junction with south-western kerb line of Gledstanes Road;
 - Comeragh Road, its north-western kerb line, from a point opposite the north-eastern kerb line of Palliser Road, eastwards for a distance of 10.00 metres;
 - Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, in the disabled person's parking bay, from the common boundary of Nos. 107 and 109 Comeragh Road, south-westward for a distance of 6.00 metres;
 - Comeragh Road, the south-eastern kerb-line, from its junction with Gledstanes Road to the common boundary of Nos. 67 and 69 Comeragh Road;
 - Comeragh Road, the north-western kerb-line, outside Nos. 46 to 52 Comeragh Road;
 - Gledstanes Road, the south-western kerb-line, from its junction with Comeragh Road to the common boundary of Nos. 2/4 Gledstanes Road;
 - Gledstanes Road, the north-eastern kerb-line, from its junction with Comeragh Road to the south-eastern boundary of No. 71 Comeragh Road;
 - Gledstanes Road, the south-western kerb-line, a section of 15.00 metres outside Baron's Court Mansions
 - Perham Road, both sides, between its junction with Gledstanes Road and its south-western extremity
 - Greyhound Road, the northern kerb-line, between Nos. 183 and 187 Greyhound Road
 - Greyhound Road, the southern kerb-line, from its junction with Musard Road to the common boundary of Leighton Mansions and Kingsley Mansions
 - Musard Road, the south-western kerb-line, from its junction with Greyhound Road to No. 1 Musard Road.
- Between the hours of 5am-6am lorry movements escorted along the whole of Palliser Road, traffic may proceed in the opposite direction of on coming traffic. The 2017 dates of these escorts are 04th May to 16th June 2017, and then 26th June to 14th July 2017.
- Nothing in Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 shall apply:
 - in respect of any vehicle being used in connection with the execution of the said works, or being used in connection with police, fire and ambulance purposes;
 - to anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a duly authorised officer from the council;
 - to vehicles requiring lawful access to adjoining premises in so far as such access is reasonably practicable without interfering with the works.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

Works for the build/breakdown would be expected to commence on certain dates falling between 04th May 2017 and 14th July 2017. The tournament dates to which the restrictions described in the articles to this notice would apply fall between 19th June 2017 and 25th June 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 25th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

54 Uxbridge Road London W12 8LP 2017/01559/ADV

Display of an externally illuminated shroud advertisement to the eastern elevation measuring 7.5m (Height) x 10m (Width) for a temporary period of 3 months.

71 Cardross Street London W6 0DP 2017/01562/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 225mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

128 Railway Arches Macfarlane Road London W12 7LA 2017/01587/FUL

Change of use from an unclassified use to use as a gym (Class D2).

38 Parfrey Street London W6 9EN 2017/01379/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2015/02030/FUL granted 11th June 2015 to allow the installation of an additional rooflight in the front roofslope.

58 Erconwald Street London W12 0BS 2017/01519/FUL

Change of use from a hairdressing salon (Class A1) to a residential dwellinghouse (Class C3); erection of an additional floor at roof level; partial bricking up of the shopfront and installation of a window in the front elevation; installation of a door and 2no. windows in the side (south-west) elevation; installation of bi-folding doors in the rear elevation; and installation of an obscured glazed window in the side (north-east) elevation.

23 Inglethorpe Street London SW6 6NS 2017/01531/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and erection of a single storey rear extension.

4 Begonia Walk London W12 0BE 2017/01476/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

148 King Street London W6 0QU 2017/00923/FUL

Replacement of existing aluminium casement windows with new uPVC casement windows at first and second floor level to the front elevation.

70 Clonmel Road London SW6 5BJ 2017/01552/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; installation of French doors and Juliet balconies to

replace the existing windows in the rear roofslope and at first floor level to the rear elevation; erection of a single storey rear extension; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to garden level at the rear of the property.

45 Rowan Road London W6 7DT 2017/01346/FUL

Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Flat Second Floor 58 Sinclair Road London W14 0NH 2017/01524/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a glass balustrade around part of the flat roof at roof level in connection with its use as a roof terrace; erection of an asphalt clad enclosure to house an internal staircase at roof level to provide access to the roof terrace.

89 Goldhawk Road London W12 8DZ 2017/01589/FUL

Installation of two air conditioning units on the flat roof of the retail unit at ground floor.

Flat B First Floor 58 Townmead Road London SW6 2RU 2017/01486/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 1 no rooflight in the front and side roof slopes and 1 no rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level.

57 Filmer Road London SW6 7JF 2017/00437/ADV

Display of two non-illuminated projecting signs; display of a non illuminated fascia vinyl logo sign.

21 And 23 Girdlers Road London W14 0PS 2017/01539/FUL

Replacement of all existing single glazed timber windows and doors to all elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

6 Girdlers Road London W14 0PU 2017/01537/FUL

Replacement of all single glazed windows and doors to all elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

328 North End Road London SW6 1NF 2017/01632/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated fascia sign.

328 North End Road London SW6 1NF 2017/01631/FUL

Installation of a new shopfront.

6 Wallflower Street London W12 0TE 2017/01419/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

5 Lilyville Road London SW6 5DP 2017/01642/FUL

Erection of a new boundary wall

with railings on top and installation of 2no pedestrian entrance gates to the front elevation; installation of new roof covering to the side passageway at ground floor level.

775 Fulham Road London SW6 5HA 2017/01483/ADV

Display of non-illuminated vinyls applied to the internal shopfront glazing.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 22nd May 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Land North Of Westworks Media Centre White City One London W12 7TQ 2017/01434/FUL

I give notice that Whitewood Media Village GP Limited is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:

Installation of three waste compactors with associated enclosures; installation of new plant within a new enclosure; new vehicle barriers and associated works within the existing servicing yard

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **22nd May 2017**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **JO ROWLANDS**
Regeneration, Planning and Housing Lead Director on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk. You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

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Public Notices

Public Notice
Neighbourhood Planning
 Town and Country Planning Act 1990,
 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations
 2012 (as amended)
NOTICE OF CONSULTATION ON
APPLICATIONS FOR DESIGNATION OF A NEIGH-
BOURHOOD AREA AND
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM.

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham Council (LBHF) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) have received a joint application to establish a Neighbourhood Area and a Neighbourhood Forum under the above regulations. The applications seek to:-

- (i) establish a Neighbourhood Area, to be known as Old Oak Neighbourhood Area and;
- (ii) set-up a Neighbourhood Forum, to be known as Old Oak Neighbourhood Forum.

These applications include a written constitution, forum membership, statement of justification and a map showing the proposed Neighbourhood Area boundary. Consultation commenced on 3 May 2017 for a 6 week period ending on 15 June 2017.

The Forum and Area applications are available for inspection at:

- Duty Planner Room, 1st Floor Hammersmith Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith W6 9JU; and
- City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London Riverside, London SE1 2AA

Alternatively they can be viewed on the Mayor of London's website: www.london.gov.uk/OldOakNF
 Comments should be sent to oldoaknf@london.gov.uk or in writing to:

Neighbourhood Planning, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London Riverside, London SE1 2AA

Comments must be received by 5pm 15 June 2017
 Mick Mulhern, Director of Planning, OPDC

Matt Butler, Head of Policy and Spatial Planning, LBHF

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2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.

To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.

3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:

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- (b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
- (c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.

4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

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11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.

(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.

14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.

16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers' control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.

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18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

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Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies.

Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

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3 days from £349 Sailing from Tilbury on board *Magellan*, 13 December 2017

This tremendous value two-night 'taster cruise' will be the perfect start to the festive season.

Cruise highlights

- ✓ Diamond capital Antwerp boasts a celebrated Christmas Market on its vast Grote Markt main square
- ✓ A visit to one of northern Europe's most sparkling gems.
- ✓ Traditional British & International cuisine, stylish entertainment, guest lecturers & on-board leisure facilities
- ✓ 2 nights' full board accommodation on board *Magellan*

*Book by 31 May 2017. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time.

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London Weekly News Group

Reader Offer



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 & SAVE UP TO
 45%!***



Christmas & New Year Canaries & Madeira Cruise

16 days from £1479 Sailing from Tilbury on board *Columbus*, 21 December 2017

Head 'south to the sun' for Christmas and see in the New Year in style.

Cruise highlights

- ✓ Christmas Day is spent at sea
- ✓ Boxing Day visit to Gibraltar
- ✓ The Canary Isle of Tenerife
- ✓ Calls at Las Palmas & Arrecife
- ✓ Spend New Year's Eve in Funchal
- ✓ Call at historic Lisbon
- ✓ Traditional British & International cuisine, stylish entertainment, guest lecturers & on-board leisure facilities
- ✓ 15 nights' full board accommodation on board *Columbus*

*Book by 31 May 2017. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time. Price shown is the new reduced fare.

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Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Relief for Rangers after victory ensures survival

SECOND-half goals from Conor Washington and Joel Lynch helped clinch a 2-0 victory that secures Queens Park Rangers' Championship status for another season and pushes Nottingham Forest closer to the third tier, writes Tony McDonald.

By avoiding what would have been a seventh straight league defeat, QPR will visit Norwich City for their final game on Sunday (12.00pm) safe in the knowledge that they are now five points clear of the relegation zone in 18th place.

Hardly cause for bunting and celebration in W12, more a feeling of relief that another frustrating, mediocre season hasn't ended very badly.

"It was a huge game and a game we needed to win, so I'm delighted," said manager Ian Holloway. "That win means the world to me. We showed we can win and keep a clean sheet, which will give us all confidence heading in to next season."

He added: "I couldn't be happier, I'm glad we got over the line. We made hard work of it but I'm glad we're safe heading into the final weekend."

This was only Holloway's 10th win and third clean sheet in 29 games since returning to Loftus Road last November. He admitted: "I know I haven't won enough games. But no-one wants it more than me and I want this club to move forward."



Conor Washington put R's on course for the win that preserved their Championship status

Picture: Rob Newell

But Holloway, respected for heart-on-his-sleeve approach and liked for often saying what the fans want to hear, still has plenty of

goodwill credit in the bank. The fans have stuck with him and he acknowledged their support after Saturday's win. I want to thank

everyone at the club for the last few months. Yes, it's been hard but that's football. There are no givens, especially in this league. But we're safe, we're already well into our planning for next season and I'm already looking forward to it. I believe we will get better and better over time."

Washington's goal just after half-time was crucial in calming QPR nerves. The Northern Ireland international hustled Joe Worrall into a mistake before striding on and clipping the ball over the onrushing Forest keeper Jordan Smith for his seventh goal of another unfulfilled season.

"The first goal was key," said Holloway. "Conor took his goal superbly. When he broke through I knew he'd score. It was a lovely finish."

Joel Lynch condemned his former club to a very nervy final game that could see Forest relegated to League One when he found the corner of the net with a downward header – his second goal in a week – from close-range on the hour.

"The second goal was the icing on the cake for us," Holloway added.

The manager hailed the QPR supporters at full-time, adding: "I thought the fans were exceptional. There was a real togetherness about today. We needed the fans and they were there for us. That shows the togetherness of this football club and that means so much to me as manager."

Chelsea

FROM BACK PAGE

work hard, who want to improve no matter how much money they're on. You only have to look at the two top legends at our football club, John Terry and Frank Lampard. It didn't matter how much money they were earning, it was about can they improve, are they the best players in training, are they the best at the week-end and affecting the team they're playing in?

"They're the kind of levels we're looking at and we are lucky enough now that we've had a first team for the last 10-15 years leading from the front. They're fighting for leagues and cups. It is nice to have that above us."

One of the accusations levelled against young players in general is that some lack the same work ethic as the senior pros. And that they are not as thick-skinned. Is that true?

"There is an element of that, I'm not going to lie," said Morris. "One of the things we have tried over the last couple of years at Chelsea, especially the under-18s group, is to make it a little bit more tough, to try and create a tougher environment. That may mean you have to go a bit old school sometimes, put the ball away and tell the boys they have to be in at 7.00am and run before breakfast or go on an assault course – just change it up a little bit."

"Sometimes we have played games where we haven't been challenged but we still demand the work-rate side of things."

"So when we beat teams like Brighton 13-0, and it should have been 20, it was because we go after the ball when we lose it, even if we're battering teams."

"If the players are not getting enough of a test, you have to try and create it. You have to try something because if you're going out beating teams from Under-9 to Under-16, by the time they get to Under-18s and towards the first team, the competition goes up. As soon as it gets tough, you don't want people to fold."

■ CHELSEA Ladies thrashed Yeovil Town 6-0 at Staines on Sunday to get their spring Women's Super League Division One season off to the best possible start.

A brace of goals from striker Ji So Yun was followed by efforts from Drew Spence, Erin Cuthbert, Crystal Dunn and substitute Ramona Bachmann.

County cricket highlights

FOUR matches into the new season and county champions Middlesex are still seeking their elusive first victory.

They must have expected to break their duck in 2017 after smashing 341-5 – their joint third highest List A score – against Sussex in their opening One-Day Cup match against Sussex at Lord's last Thursday.

With John Simpson (81 not out) leading the way, they blasted 119 runs off the last 10 overs.

But the visitors' innings had progressed just four overs when rain forced the match to be abandoned, with the teams taking only a point each.

On Sunday, the rain stayed away from the Home of Cricket but Gloucestershire comfortably beat Middlesex's ODC total of 256-9 to win by five wickets.

Last week, bad light denied Middlesex their first County Championship win of the campaign as Essex held on eight wickets down.

Two interruptions either side of tea saw almost two hours' play lost to the conditions at Lord's after Essex resumed on 19-0, chasing 452 to win.

A Middlesex win looked a formality at 130-7 when Ravi Bopara (32) had his off stump removed by Steven Finn.

But Neil Wagner and Simon Harmer held on in fading light for 150 overs to help Essex draw on 160-8.

Middlesex have three more

ODC matches scheduled for this week, starting tomorrow (Weds) when they visit Hampshire, followed by the London derby against Surrey at the Kia Oval on Friday (5th) and a short trip to Kent on Sunday (7th).

■ RAIN couldn't prevent Surrey from notching their first One-Day Cup win of the season by the Duckworth-Lewis method against Glamorgan at Cardiff on Sunday.

The Browncaps coasted to an eight-wicket victory in South Wales after being set a revised target of 182 in 29 overs.

Kumar Sangakkara (81 not out) and Mark Stoneman (74) saw them home with five overs to spare.

Jade Dernbach (3-30) and Sam Curran (3-51) had earlier bowled well to restrict Glamorgan to 239 in 48.3 overs.

Two days earlier Surrey lost their opening 50-over ODC match in Somerset despite posting 290-8, with Ben Foakes bagging 91.

But Roelof van der Merwe hit a brilliant unbeaten 165 as Somerset recovered from 22-5 to win inside 44 overs with four wickets in hand.

Earlier last week, Warwickshire averted the threat of a third successive loss, batting throughout the final day to salvage a draw with Surrey at Edgbaston.

Surrey continue their ODC campaign today (May 2) with a

visit from Essex, followed by Friday's capital derby at home against Middlesex and Sunday's trip to Sussex.

■ SURREY were shocked by last week's announcement from Zafar Ansari that he has quit cricket with immediate effect at the age of 25.

Surrey and England all-rounder Ansari said he has "other ambitions that I want to fulfil".

Ansari made his Test debut for England in October, against Bangladesh, before playing two Tests against India.

The left-arm spinner played 71 first-class games, taking 128 wickets.

"After seven years as a professional cricketer and almost two decades in total playing, I have decided to bring my cricket career to an end," he said.

He added: "While the timing may come as a surprise, I have always maintained that cricket was just one part of my life and that I have other ambitions that I want to fulfil."

"With that in mind, I am now exploring another career, potentially in law, and to achieve this I have to begin the process now."

Ansari, who has a double first in politics, philosophy and sociology from Cambridge University and a Master's degree in history from Royal Holloway, has been at Surrey since the age of eight.

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London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday May 2 2017

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Cesar Azpilicueta, left, was a key factor in Sunday's clean sheet at Everton, where Blues moved a huge step closer to regaining the Premier League title. It was a mixed afternoon for Tom Cairney, right, who scored Fulham's goal in the draw with local rivals Brentford but missed a penalty that would have won the game
Pictures: Rob Newell



Fulham are almost there

Focus on Craven Cottage

FULHAM head coach Slaviša Jokanović has hinted he will rest some key players at Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday, now that a play-off spot is all but in the bag home following the 1-1 home draw with West London neighbours Brentford.

A 14-goal swing to Leeds United – still three points behind Fulham in seventh place – on the last day of the regular Championship campaign is the only unthinkable scenario which will deprive Whites of a shot at Premier League glory, so the temptation to save legs for the play-off semi-finals will be strong.

Jokanović wants his team to maintain momentum in that final match at Hillsborough and build on an unbeaten sequence of four wins out of five in the run-in. But he also admits he has half an eye on the battle ahead.

"We must start thinking about what is the best option," he said after his side extended their unbeaten sequence to seven matches.

"Some players have played so many minutes and we are going to try and find what is the best solution for this game against Sheffield Wednesday.

"I don't coach only 11 players. We are now a squad thinking and working in the same direction and if I make some changes, I fully expect that they [the ones coming in] are going to do a similar job to the players who started in these last few games.

"It's sure we're going to start thinking about the play-offs now but our job in the regular part of the season is still not done.

"It's a great chance for us to play in front of a full stadium and with a little less pressure we can try to give our best performance and try and win the game.

"We are in a good moment in our form and we are going to play in a historical place with 3,000 of our supporters there, and we don't go for joking.

"We are going to try and prepare ourselves, be competitive and push hard and find our style."

Jokanović added: "I must be proud about the way my team is working – how they follow our plan. Our performance can be a little bit more clinical, a little stronger in organisation, but we play with confidence and we know what we must do during the game."

Whites saw out the draw which guaranteed sixth spot without taking unnecessary risks in the latter stages of a decent West London derby on Saturday.

Jokanović said he thought it sensible not to go all out for a win and risk defeat, because Leeds – Fulham's only remaining rivals for a play-off spot – were failing to beat Norwich at Elland Road, where they came from behind to draw 3-3.

Fulham really ought to have been out of sight after a dominant first half, however. After Tom Cairney had turned in a Ryan Sessegnon cross after eight minutes, Fulham continued to pour forward and create chances – Floyd Ayite guilty of missing two great openings.

And after they had allowed Nico Yennaris to draw Brentford level against the run of play on 34 minutes, Cairney had the chance to reclaim the lead from the penalty spot on the stroke of half-time... only for Dan Bentley to dive to his left to keep out the shot, as well as the follow-up.

It was the ninth spot-kick Fulham have fluffed out of 13 awarded this season and they must hope they are not subjected to the ordeal of a penalty shoot-out during the play-offs.

Yann Teahr

Blues edge closer to title



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

CHELSEA are within sniffing distance of the Premier League title and all the players are hoping that departing skipper John Terry will lift the trophy and the FA Cup at the end of May, *by Paul Lagan.*

The West Londoners beat a tough Everton, 3-0 at Goodison Park on Sunday, the first time they have kept a clean sheet in nine matches – since the 1-0 win at Stamford Bridge against Manchester United in March.

"Obviously, we know that John is leaving," said Spain defender Cesar Azpilicueta. "He is our captain, all the things he has achieved in the club, he is part of the history. Obviously the best way to leave the team will be hopefully two trophies and him lifting them both up."

Chelsea's lead over Tottenham could be reduced to one point if the North Londoners win at West Ham on Friday, so Azpilicueta knows the importance of Monday night's home match against relegation-haunted Middlesbrough.

"We have four games left and we know we need three more wins to be champions," said the 27-year-old who was signed by Blues from Marseilles for £6.5million in 2015.

"So it's in our hands. We will have a difficult game on Monday night against Middlesbrough, who drew 2-2 with Manchester City on Sunday."

Goals from Pedro, Gary Cahill and Willian in the last 24 minutes at Everton maintained Chelsea's lead at the top immediately before Spurs beat Arsenal 2-0 at White Hart Lane to restore the four-point gap.

"It was a massive win at Goodison Park, he said. "We knew it would be a difficult game. The first half was tough.

We had a good reaction in the second-half and were able to win the game.

"The difference between the halves came after we scored the first goal."

That was a world-class screamer from fellow countryman Pedro.

"It became a bit easier but even in the first half, we had a few chances to score but were not able to. When we don't score, we are in a risk situation. But we defended really well and kept a clean sheet for the first time in a long time. That was something we had in our minds, as it was the base for our success. We can't score three or four goals every time, so stability at the back and not to concede goals is important."

While goal scorers get the glory, sometimes defenders make the difference. Does he agree? Of course he does.

"Obviously we know how football works," he said. "The goal scorers get more credit but as a defender I know how important it is to give confidence to the team, to defend well. We haven't kept a clean sheet for many matches, so it was something we had to get back to, to recover the solidity, and then to become even better and better."

After facing Middlesbrough, Antonio Conte's Blues play their final away fixture against West Bromwich Albion on Friday week (May 12), before home matches against Watford (May 15) and relegated Sunderland (May 21). Blues could win the title against Watford but Azpilicueta is unconcerned about where they win it, so long as they do finish the job.

"We take every game as it is," he said. "We know we have three games at home. We have to be focused on the next game against Middlesbrough."

"We know that every team will play their best, they will play a difficult game. But we have it in our hands and we can't let it go."

Another player keen to eradicate the memory of last season's 10th-place finish and end the season as soon as possible

at the top of the pile is Serbia midfielder Nemanja Matic.

The 28-year-old is excited that the title is within touching distance and after securing three points against Everton, he said: "I think it was the most important game of this season."

"We had four points more than the second-place side and then we had to play Everton away, which we know is a very hard place to take points from."

"But we did a great job, we played very well. It was very hard – they are a really good team, seventh in the table, so it's not easy to go there and score three goals to win. And that's why we are so happy."

"We prepared very well for this game and knew what to expect – now we hope Tottenham will drop some points. That would make it easier for us. But it doesn't matter what they do, we will give our best to become champions."

Matic scored arguably the goal of the season in the recent FA Cup semi-final win over Spurs at Wembley. His vicious long-range left-footer was unstoppable and Chelsea fans won't let him forget it. Whenever he gets the ball, they shout 'shoot!'

Matic said: "Every time I receive the ball on the half way line they say 'shoot'. I scored that goal and now everyone expects that I can shoot from every distance, but this is football."

And how many times has he watched replays of the goal?

"To be honest, 10 times and my son 100 times, so 110 in total," he smiled.

Matic and his team-mates are well versed in handling the pressure that comes with league leaders.

"Of course, you can imagine if we had lost against Everton, Tottenham would now be just one point behind, so there is a lot of pressure," he said.

"We want to win, while to draw or lose is not the same. Getting just a draw is not for us, it's very important to take three points."

Matic was central to Chelsea's last title win in 2015 but feels this season is different.

"I think this year it's more difficult," he conceded. "We finished 2015 eight points clear of Man City. I'm not sure this will be the case with Tottenham. I'm sure they will not give up until end of the season. At this moment it's hard but we will see."

"They have some difficult games, home and away, so everything is open until the end."

■ CHELSEA under-18s hammered Manchester City 5-1 on Wednesday night (6-2 on aggregate) to lift the FA Youth Cup for the fourth year in a row.

While naturally delighted, manager Jody Morris was still keen to ensure his youngsters did not rest on their laurels with three more Elite U18 Premier League games still to play. So he can have no complaints when his charges defeated Liverpool 1-0 away on Saturday. Tariq Uwakwe scored the only goal in a close encounter.

The final two games are against Arsenal and Reading. If the kids win both, then they can add the league title to the U18s Southern League championship they won earlier this season and the FA Youth Cup to their ever bulging trophy cabinet.

Of the Youth Cup victory, Morris said: "That win is right up there with the best moments of my career."

"It is still my boyhood club. I'm lucky and privileged enough to play for the club but to come back and work, to be in charge of such a talented group, is a proud moment."

Football's changed but for Morris some things remain the same.

"It's just the way football has gone," he said. "You have to move with the times but not come away from the core values. You want people who want to

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